

UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

U.F.O. NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

ROUTE 1 — BOX 220

PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 U.S.A.

CO-EDITORS: LUCIUS FARISH
ROD B. DYKE

APRIL 1990

NUMBER 249

ADVOCATE, Provincetown, MA — March 15, 1990 CR: B. Greenwood

UFOs reported by fishermen at Wood End, Long Point

By Peter Steele

Capt. Gerald Costa of Provincetown, a fisherman and owner of the whale-watcher Ranger V, never used to believe in unidentified flying objects, until he saw some the night of March 4.

Costa maintains that when he was rounding Wood End in his 66-foot scalloper Michelle he saw an unidentified spherical craft sitting next to the Wood End lighthouse not more than 100 yards away.

His sighting was confirmed by Christopher Hatley of Provincetown, who was at the wheel of the Michelle next to Costa in the pilot house. Both men said they saw several other UFOs flying around between Wood End and Corn Hill in Truro.

Costa, Hatley and two other men aboard the Michelle were returning from a two-day fishing trip when they encountered the UFOs.

As they were approaching Wood End Light from Race Point at about 11:30 p.m., Costa said he couldn't see the familiar red light from the lighthouse. At first Costa said he thought the light was out, but upon closer inspection, he said he saw "a ship" on the beach whose mass was blocking his view of the light.

Costa described the craft as "completely round," gray in color, "about 30-feet high by 30-feet wide," with "a lot of windows" that ringed the top half of the craft.

He said he could see the top half of the object, but not the bottom half, which he said was obscured by a dune.

"It was not a helicopter," he said, adding that the craft also had no wings.

"I stopped at Wood End to look for the red light," Costa said. "I happened to look up and saw the light, then I looked to the left and saw the ship."

He said there were "a lot of windows, but no people. I don't know if there were any people in it or if they got out or what."

Costa said the Michelle got to within 300 feet of the strange object before passing it. As the Michelle approached Long Point, Costa said he then heard four booms, and saw what he thought were four more objects taking off from Long Point straight up in the air.

He said the UFOs were not clearly visible to him, but he saw a yellowish tinge of light from each of them as they shot skyward at "a thousand miles an hour."

Costa said the UFOs ascended faster than anything he had ever seen before. "It was some fast," he said. "You wouldn't believe."

Costa said the UFOs made showed no white lights when they took off, just "a tinge of yellow." But then they stopped suddenly in the air and flashed "bright, bright white lights," Costa said.

He said he saw three or four more of them buzzing around between Wood End, Long Point and Corn Hill in Truro, each of them stopping occasionally to flash the bright white lights.

"It was really strange," Costa said. "They all left as I came around the point."

He said the experience was scary. "I wondered what the hell was going on here. I don't believe in those things. I've been at sea for 50 years, and I never saw something like that in my life," Costa said.

Hatley said he has been around that corner "a million times," but "what I saw was what I saw, and it was big."

"It was definitely a craft right by Wood End light," he said. Hatley said he agreed with Costa's account of what happened.

He said he and Costa were about to radio the Coast Guard to inform them the light was out at the lighthouse, when he saw the craft blocking it.

"We thought the light was out," Hatley said. "We had our faces glued to our windshield" trying to determine what the craft was, he said. He insisted that neither he nor Costa had been drinking alcoholic beverages or taking drugs before they saw the strange craft.

He said the object had an oval-shaped window from which light was emanating. Hatley said the craft looked like a vehicle that had its interior light on. He said he could only describe the window as "more or less oval, like rounded glass."

As they passed the craft, Hatley said it didn't take off, but there were two or three other objects flying around over the water. He said the boat's radar did not pick up the flying objects, "but they were there," he said. "I saw them."

Fishing boat radars are surface search radars unsuitable for tracking or even discerning airborne targets, especially if they are fast.

He said he and Costa first thought the UFOs were helicopters, but "they moved too fast." The UFOs appeared to be "spotlighting" with white lights, he said.

"I have never been a UFO person," Hatley said, but "nothing I'm aware of can move like that."

The other two men aboard the Michelle had never been on a fishing boat before, Hatley said. He and Costa know them only by their first names, Moe and Ted, he said.

"We took them out for lack of help," he said. "We found them in a bar. He added, "It's been done before."

He said the two men also saw the lights, but since they had never been on a fishing boat before and never came around the point like that, they did not find the occurrence unusual.

"When they looked out the window, they didn't think it was that unusual. They wouldn't have known different," Hatley said.

Costa said he did not report the sighting to anyone. But when a group called Cape Skywatchers found out about the sightings, it asked the Cape Cod National Seashore for permission to drive a vehicle to the Wood End light to investigate.

The group was formed in the fall, when mysterious lights were repeatedly reported off Herring Cove Beach in Provincetown.

North District Ranger Irving Tubbs said the Seashore denied permission for the group to drive their own vehicle to the site, but he offered to take them there himself.

Tubbs said he took Carolyn Miller, founder of Cape Skywatchers, Marjorie Ullman and Catherine Steele, who are also Skywatchers, and Costa to the lighthouse on March 6.

Steele said Costa's daughter had called her to inquire about an article that described the lights at Herring Cove when she told her of the sighting. Steele said Costa's daughter did not know she was a Skywatcher, but when she found out, she said Costa would be willing to tell his story to them.

Tubbs said the group did not find any signs of a landing. Costa said perhaps the craft was hovering and did not make any signs. He said it was snowing the day the group went to investigate, which may have covered any sign.

Miller said there was "nothing on the ground. It was snowing." But she said Costa "was convinced it was right in

front of the lighthouse."

Since Costa's sighting was reported, Miller said she has received 25 to 30 calls from persons on the Cape who have had similar sightings of hovering crafts, but were afraid to tell anyone.

"They didn't know who to call," Miller said. "They were terrified." She said some of the people said they had UFOs hovering over their cars.

Tubbs said the Seashore is taking the position of having an open mind about the sightings. He said it behooves the Seashore to investigate any reports of suspicious activity.

Flying craft would not be a permitted use in the Seashore, Tubbs said. He said the Seashore would classify them as aircraft and thus prohibit them from flying any closer than 1,000 feet of Seashore property. Hovering would be prohibited, he said.

When it was suggested the Seashore post its property against UFOs, Tubbs said he did not know what language to use on the warnings.

"Maybe a saucer with a red slash through it," he said.

Senior Chief Rick Hersey, commanding officer of the Provincetown Coast Guard Station, said he did not get an official report from the Michelle about the sightings. But he said he heard about the sightings from Ullman and in casual conversation with one of the crew members.

He said he called various military bases to determine if any helicopters were in the area that night, but the Air National Guard, Coast Guard and Army National Guard all said they had dispatched none to that area.

Hersey said the Coast Guard is always curious about a craft that allegedly lands on a beach, because it could indicate illicit activity there.

He said Costa's sighting is one of many reports he has received year round about UFOs. But the alleged UFOs "have never been this close or been seen that clearly," Hersey said. The reports are usually just about sightings of lights, he said.

Hersey said he investigated the sighting of lights seen from Herring Cove, and "did note a large amount of lights." He said there is a lot of aircraft in that area, which could explain the lights, or it could be refraction from the atmosphere.

He said airplanes flying to Logan International Airport in Boston are often put in a holding pattern over Hyannis.

But "I'm becoming pretty curious," Hersey said, since the report from the Michelle is a "pretty articulate description" of the crafts.

'UFOs Over Long Island' debuts in Brookhaven

By Raymond Gorman
Correspondent

TERRYVILLE — "UFOs Over Long Island" aired this Thursday on Brookhaven Cable Channel 6, hosted by Island Skywatch's Bill Knell and paranormal researcher Candace Eton. The show's theme ultimately questions governmental squelching of what may be interplanetary visits.

Don't expect a stylish format or witty repartee, but these shows have plenty of content that appears reputable. Long Island is a center for technological research, and Knell notes that foreign diplomats are warned not to travel east of Route 110 for this very reason.

Long Island is also one of the busiest UFO sitting areas in the country.

Knell has been a UFO researcher for 20 years. He believes "big brotherly" attempts to hide UFO information keep us from a concerted effort to really understand what's going on.

He suggests that, at best, if govern-

ment rationale is to protect the public from fear, it fails because the growing number of sitters would prefer to think they're not going crazy. At worst, if the government is keeping things quiet in order to keep advanced technology for secret purposes, the public is being criminally misinformed and cheated out of one of the greatest boons in history.

"Weather balloons, helicopters, atmospheric anomalies and mass hallucinations just don't explain the minor blackout in Queens and Brooklyn two weeks ago. It happened just about the same time some unusual craft was seen by dozens of witnesses hovering over the Con Edison plant in Manhattan," Knell said.

"In 1988 two security guards at LILCO's Shoreham plant, which at the time was operating at low level, saw a huge circular craft that came in over the Sound. It stopped in mid-air beside the plant, and a substantial power loss was noted at the time," stated Knell. "I think

that one was explained by the powers that be as migrating birds or such."

The hard evidence is impossible to ignore Knell insists. "There is also certainly no easy explanation for an implant, with no known origin, found in the center of Whitley Streiber's brain," he said.

Streiber is the author of "Communion" and "Transformations," two popular books that purport to be true stories of Streiber's involvement with extraterrestrials. He is expected to be a future guest on the show, as is actress Shirley MacLaine.

The program is set to run on Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. The first show covered physical evidence in the possession of Nassau Community College and circular impressions in the ground that are thought to be landing sites.

Budd Hopkins, another best selling author of the UFO-based books, "Missing Time" and "Intruders," will be a guest on next week's show, the second in the series.

A future show promises to reveal a top

secret document that is apparent proof that last year, the U.S. government traded nuclear weapons to South Africa in return for wreckage and bodies from a UFO crash.

Knell also mentioned that he is presently involved with MIT's testing of what is believed to be an alien implant. It was surgically removed from a living person who claims to have been abducted and operated on by extraterrestrials. So far the institute has been unable to tell what material it is, no less if it's biological, electrical or mechanical.

"And that's just a small part of it. I could tell you things that would keep you from sleeping tonight," Knell teased.

While the program is only broadcast on the Brookhaven cable system, a spokesman there said it may be picked up by other systems. Hopeful viewers can call their cable operators and request the show.

Further information may be obtained by calling the Island Skywatch Hotline at (718) 380-8644.

Who ya gonna call? MUFON

By Karen Rafinski
Gazette Staff

EUREKA SPRINGS — What do you if you're abducted by aliens?

Phone, not home, but MUFON — the Mutual UFO Network.

They can refer you to trained and qualified UFO investigators and hypnotherapists who can help you overcome the trauma of being kidnapped by extra-terrestrials. The phone number is 354-2558.

No kidding.

In fact, anyone attending the annual MUFON convention at the Inn of the Ozarks here would be struck with how seriously these people take themselves. Aside from a lengthy list of speakers on UFOlogy the convention serves as something of a support group for the 200 people who attend, many of whom say they have been the victims of alien abductions.

Eureka Springs Mayor Richard Shoening, dressed in a tux, started the conference off by reading a proclamation making the first extra-terrestrial to arrive in the city an honorary citizen who'll also have a free trolley pass.

Then the conference turned serious when writer Lauren Rose described her 20-year trauma because of childhood abductions by aliens.

We're not talking about little green men with antennas here.

According to Rose they're gray or white and stand three- to four-feet tall with large slanted eyes and a glowing gold center.

"It's a very serious issue that can and does affect our mental health and belief systems," said Rose, of Arlington, Va., who said she was raped by aliens inside their spacecraft. "People think you're crazy. At least if someone is raped by a human being they know they need help."

Rose said the abductions started when she was a small child and she believes that at first she was a willing participant. Later on they began to experiment with her.

Rose said she does not know why the extra-terrestrials are doing experiments or what the meaning of all her memories is or even how it all happened.

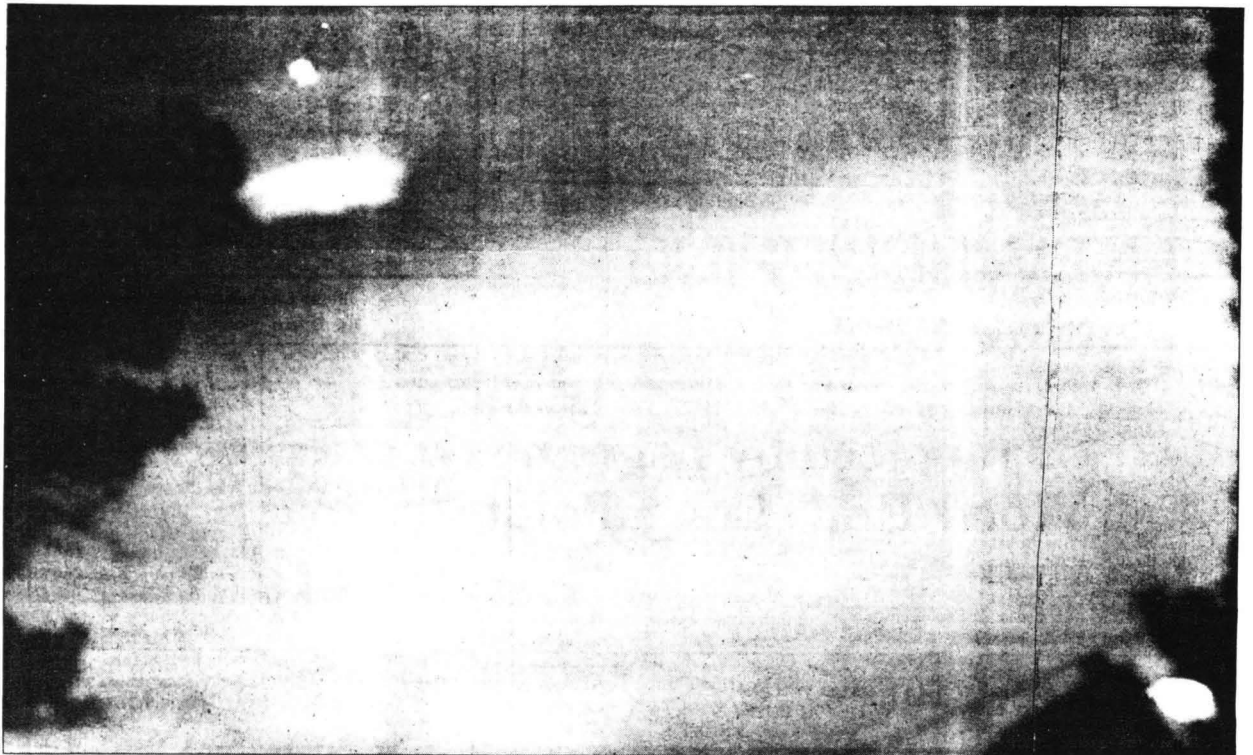
"I've strongly suspected our cat," Rose said. "I know that's crazy but you don't know our cat."

After her speech many people came up to Rose to thank her for speaking about her experiences and to talk about their own abductions.

Shirley Coyne of Michigan was selling hand-painted T-shirts depicting various flying saucers and scenes from people's sightings of them. She said her main reason for coming to MUFON conferences was to talk about common problems with other abductees.

Coyne belongs to a Michigan support group for abductees. Coyne said she and her husband George were abducted in 1983. It was the middle of a hot summer evening when Coyne said she saw the bright light of the UFO moving over her cornfield. After waking her husband they ran outside barefoot to look at it and the last thing they remember is the feel of the grass on their feet.

Coyne later remembered through hypnosis all the details of what the aliens, who were little gray men, did in the large domed spacecraft. But she would not tell a reporter because her husband has not remembered and she doesn't want to lead him or contaminate the evidence that will be made of his recollections.



Photos courtesy of Donald Ware

IT'S A BIRD, A PLANE, IT'S ... ? — skies will be discussed during tonight's 7:30 meeting of the Metaphysical Research Group of Richmond in the Howard Johnson Midtown hotel at 3207 N. Boulevard.

UFO expert says information on aliens withheld by government

By Mark Holmberg
Times-Dispatch staff writer

Aliens from outer space or Air Force pilots ... who has the right stuff?

According to Donald M. Ware, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel and active Audubon Society bird watcher, when space creatures and U.S. Air Force pilots swapped aircraft in an interplanetary exchange program of sorts, some butterfly-netted U.S. pilots nearly crashed an alien spacecraft in New Mexico some years ago.

But the aliens aren't all exactly Chuck Yeagers either.

The government has "probably 30 alien bodies in the morgue" from "eight, 10, 12 alien crashes," said Ware, who will speak here tonight.

Preposterous?

"People can think whatever they want," Ware said. "I'm willing to tell them what I've learned, they don't have to listen if they don't want to."

An hourlong phone conversation with Ware from his home in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., reveals a gentle-voiced, well-spoken man who knows that most people find his comments ridiculous, if not insane.

Born in Richmond on Halloween 54 years ago, Ware maintains the government "... has a program to maintain a monopoly on hard evidence" proving the existence of alien spacecraft. "Our government is keeping it from the public."

Why?

Until recently, Ware said, "the truth was so bizarre, the public was not ready to accept it ... Unless you have a good understanding of it, it is a bit frightening. It makes people uncomfortable, forces them to change their views of the universe."

But Ware, who served two combat tours during his 26 years as an Air Force pilot, teacher and scientist, believes the government is readying us "... for the larger reality without scaring us to death. The general public is far more ready to accept guys from other planets interacting with us than they were 30, 40 years ago. It's become ingrained in our culture, not all of it by accident."

The happily married golfer said TV shows like "Battlestar Galatica" and "Star Trek" are "very close to the truth" and have helped desensitize the public to the alien notion. U.S. intelligence personnel, Ware added, were present on the sets of



SKY WATCHER — Donald M. Ware, bird watcher and former fighter pilot, says "aliens are watching us."

movies like "Close Encounters" and "The Day the Earth Stood Still."

"This is somebody's reality," he said of the movie's depiction of aliens, "and those somebodies are interacting with us."

Ware said he's had a great interest "... in all the mysteries of the world, ever since I could remember." At Duke University, Ware earned a degree in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in nuclear engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology. He began careful study of UFOs when he saw the highly publicized lights over Washington, D.C., in 1952. The day after he

retired from the military, he signed on as an investigator for the Mutual UFO Network Inc., a worldwide organization that investigates UFO activity. He is now MUFON's eastern regional director.

"I am convinced that both the UFO phenomenon and religions are avenues through which we get a glimpse of a much larger reality," he said.

Ware will share this expanded reality during the tonight's meeting of the Metaphysical Research Group of Richmond.

Ware said he will discuss three questions: What are UFOs? How long have they been here? What are they doing? The 2½ hour presentation will also include a video, "UFOs Now," which features the much talked-about photographs of the Gulf Breeze objects that have been seen by many witnesses in Florida over the past two years.

A question and answer period will follow the presentation, which may be watched from above.

"I'm convinced," Ware said, "someone has been watching us for a very long time."

Donald M. Ware will speak at tonight's 7:30 meeting of the Metaphysical Research Group of Richmond at the Howard Johnson Midtown hotel, 3207 N. Boulevard. Non-members may attend by paying \$3.

TIMES-DISPATCH, Richmond, VA

March 19, 1990 CR: B. Pittman

Unexplained lights witnessed

The Baxter County Sheriff's Department received a somewhat unusual call Monday night from a woman who said she lived in the vicinity of Circle R Ranch.

The woman, who would not identify herself, told Dispatcher David Orsborne, that she had heard a roaring noise and had seen bright lights which seemed to hover low over her house.

She told the officer that while she and her husband looked at the

lights, which seemed to be standing still, they suddenly moved rapidly away and over a tree line.

The woman claimed one of her neighbors also witnessed the incident.

Orsborne sent deputies to the area to look for anything unusual in the sky, but they didn't see any unusual sights, and the identity or location of the caller was not established.

BAXTER BULLETIN, Mountain Home, AR - April 4, 1990
CR: L. Willett

MUFON state director Ed Mazur said cases like that of Rose and Coyne are not uncommon and that he is currently working with about four abduction cases in Arkansas.

Mazur said there have been about a dozen UFO sightings in Arkansas in the last year that have been reported to MUFON. The reports centered in Mena and Flippin and ranged from the "classic boomerang shape" to a watermelon shape. Mazur could not offer an explanation of the phenomena.

"Who'd want to go to Flippin?" asked Mazur.

Flying-object reports aren't new

□ Back in 1897, there were 200 UFO sightings in central Illinois over a month

By BILL KNIGHT
of the Journal Star

The man was in his Walnut Grove barn after milking his cow when the noise thundered through the night and the roof ripped away. Knocked unconscious, the man was revived and described a fast-moving bright light. A strange vehicle.

He was only one of hundreds who experienced the Great Airship Mystery, which occurred in Illinois long before Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) were reported here two weeks ago. In fact, the airship sightings swept the state long before airplanes or spaceships — 93 years ago this week.

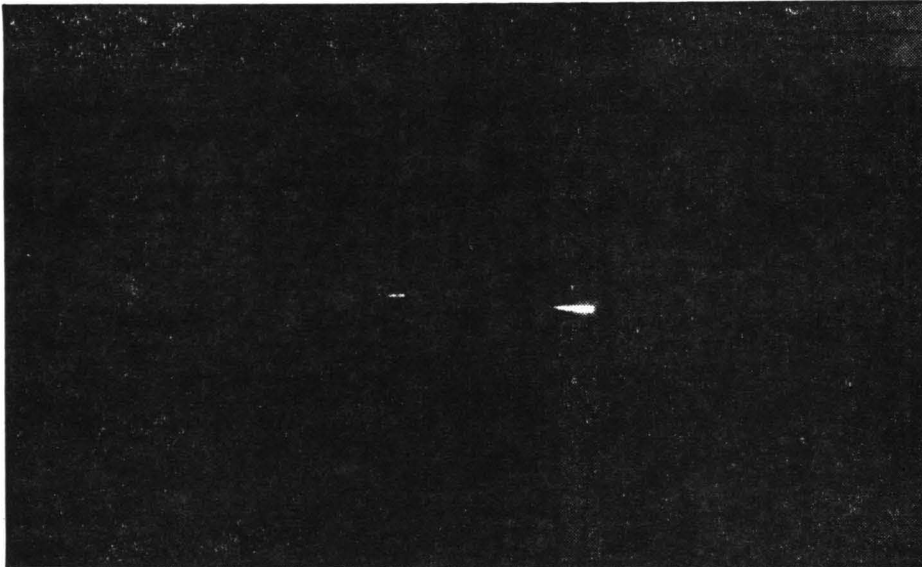
Astronomers, policemen, farmers, trainmen, churchgoers, reporters and other reputable citizens witnessed a generally flat craft capable of flight, speed, hovering, and quick changes in direction.

It appeared to be covered with a canvas-like fabric, with multi-colored lights and a beam as bright as a locomotive's headlamp. Some detailed it as more cigar-shaped, about 15 by 30-foot-long, with oars or wings that flapped in flight.

A few reported a crew; a handful reported conversations with the travelers. Photographs were taken. Threats were made.

"Officer Moos threatened to take the visitors to the lockup if it persisted in causing the concentration of mobs in the streets," reported the Lincoln Courier from April 13, 1897. "Lincoln was under the far-famed airship last night at 7:45. It didn't hang around very long."

Unlike the single sighting by Tazewell Sheriff's Deputy Steve Dault and dozens of others on March 18, these 1897 sightings num-



AL HARKRADER/Journal Star

Besides the public, pilots and air traffic controllers, Journal Star photographer Al Harkrader saw this UFO swoop over Peoria on June 5,

1969. Observers throughout central Illinois witnessed the "formation," which some later explained as a meteor. No crater was found.

bered more than 200 over a month.

Chronicled in newspapers of the period, the sightings were mainly of three types, according to Decatur researcher Robert Neeley Jr., who's studied about 2,400 sightings from 1897 recorded in dozens of files in more than 40 states.

"There were moving lights, descriptive sightings, and landing or crash claims," Neeley says. "Many today can be identified as celestial objects such as the planet Venus or stars. But some remain unexplained. Some are quite similar to current sightings."

An excitable public anticipating technological breakthroughs, new fantasy literature written by authors such as Jules Verne, mass hysteria, and even hoaxes might be

to blame, Neeley adds.

"The 'genuine' sightings show that 1897 was a normal period for UFOs," he says. "The number of reports probably stem from people's response to Hearst-style newspaper empires, which frequently exaggerated news, and people's being prepped for flight."

However, the number and similarity of some reports is so striking that they can't be dismissed.

Newspapers in Bloomington and Chicago reported a flying object on April 11. A day later, a Rushville physician reported a light that shot upward, moved rapidly, and changed directions as he watched.

Later that week, a large crowd in Mason City for 30 minutes watched an overhead light move

south, then north, then west until it disappeared. A week later, the Galesburg Evening Mail recorded a light that moved in a halting manner, stopping, changing direction and disappearing after moving from the northwest to the southeast, all according to Illinois Historical Society newspaper files.

Most of the 1897 sightings occurred between 7:30 and 9 p.m. April 9-16, and they were evenly distributed throughout the state, Neeley's research shows.

"It's possible that very ordinary natural events happened that were interpreted by people in terms contemporary in their time," Neeley says. "It's like ancient reports of UFOs, described as 'flying shields' or 'spears in the sky.'"

Williamsfield residents about 8:45 p.m. on April 12 saw a craft with a canopy moving toward Peoria, according to the Lincoln Courier, which added that the airship landed, "then suddenly ascended faster than a pigeon could fly."

Peoria figured prominently in two other incidents of varying validity. The first was on April 17, when a crew on a Peoria & Pekin Union train claimed that they'd seen a landed airship near the Peoria State Hospital. The Peoria Herald reported that other Bartonville residents saw the ship, which was filled with unknown electrical and mechanical appliances.

Other close encounters were reported in Springfield and in Downs, southeast of Bloomington. But another Peoria newspaper, the Transcript, conducted an interesting airborne experiment.

In its April 15 issue, the Transcript published a long article about many reports of a local sighting. Some heard loud sounds from the airship, others music. Most stated its speed was 100 miles per hour; some described it as "a hideous monster with a fiery furnace" 2,000 feet in the air.

The UFO was a balloon launched by three reporters to show how people's imaginations affected their accounts.

Dirigibles weren't used in the United States until 1904, Neeley says, so that confusion is impossible. But other mistakes are likely.

"The people of 1897 lived in very stressful times," he says. "They were amazed at the technological achievements of the time. They had just dealt with a bad winter, and the spring had brought forth one of the greatest floods to hit the Midwest. Astronomers speculated on life on other planets."

Neeley says he's skeptical, and doesn't speculate about extra-terrestrials or visitors from other dimensions or time travelers from Earth's future.

"Regardless of such fanciful theories, most of the 1897 reports describe an airship that seems aeronautically impossible," he says. "There might be something to the idea that UFOs are products of some unknown psycho/social trait humans share. But when UFOs are seen hundreds of times in Illinois in a month — and over 30,000 times in the last 40 years — any aliens sure aren't doing a good job of concealing themselves."

Old records show UFOs reported all over central Illinois

Before the UFO sighting by dozens of observers two weeks ago, central Illinois for years has had similar reports. Here is a sampling of the last 25 years:

■ May 1984: A metallic-looking object described by an air traffic controller as "green, orange and very white" is spotted about 9 p.m. by more than 50 people between Bloomington, Peoria and Pontiac.

■ November 1981: Two Peorians and two Peoria police officers reported "a large white light that had red and blue running lights on the side" hovering above Interstate 74's Broadway overpass. The object repeatedly left the area — apparently after police dispatchers' calls to respond to the location, observers said. However, the UFO also remained stationary for up to 90 minutes, and occasionally produced a bluish-green beacon, witnesses said.

■ December 1978: Two teenage girls from London Mills reported a tubular aircraft that approached their car as they drove on Illinois Route 116 near Rapatee at night. It came within about 10 feet of their vehicle, circled them once, and left "toward the east at a fantastic speed, but there wasn't any noise at all."

■ February 1978: UFOs were reported by three Bradley University coeds, two BU security officers and Dunlap residents about 6 p.m. Two elongated UFOs with white, green and red lights were seen on the West Bluff about 100 feet in the air. "It was moving too rapidly to be an airplane and then it zigzagged and moved to the south," said one patrolman. Witnesses watched the UFO drift up and down between houses "for about 30 minutes. Peoria and Peoria Heights police also received reports.

1897 UFO reports in central Illinois



■ July 1977: An Illinois State University professor, his wife, and his secretary about 6:30 p.m. all watched a silver-colored "stretched cigar" slowly fly from the southwest to northeast sky. It had no wings, sounds or vapor trail.

■ March 1977: Four Macomb residents reported seeing a bright, greenish-colored UFO about 7 p.m., it moved from the eastern to the western horizons in a matter of seconds.

■ June 1974: Several residents of Dunfermline observed a large white light moving over the village from north to south, and after about a few minutes disappear at a fast rate of speed. The UFO had no sound, but changed from white to orange just before speeding off.

■ August 1969: About 15 Peorians reported seeing "five red lights" in the Northmoor Hills neighborhood. The UFOs moved east, separately turned north, and

one disappeared.

■ June 1969: Several pilots and airliner crews, St. Louis air traffic controllers, and dozens of observers reported a daylight sighting of four UFOs flying in formation about 6 p.m. "They were beautiful," said one witness, who added that they were "flying as level as two airplanes."

■ December 1968: Two Peorians driving to Quincy saw a brightly lit UFO moving in various directions in the sky until it descended "much closer to the ground" near Lewistown.

■ May 1967: Two separate reports were made to police of a UFO visible from the Canton-Cuba blacktop. A bright white light that "was not an airplane" moved from south to north, occasionally hesitating as it moved, then circled once near the horizon before disappearing.

■ March 1967: Residents of

Tazewell, Knox, Warren, Rock Island and Henry counties all reported brightly lit UFOs that "screamed and wobbled" about 8 p.m. A Knox County Sheriff's deputy was one of 20 witnesses who gathered to watch a pulsating circular object hovering about 2,000 feet in the air for several hours. After remaining stationary for some time, the UFO "started moving up and disappeared," said the cop, who watched through binoculars.

Also that month, the Knox County Sheriff's office received a letter from a farmer who wrote that UFOs had landed in a field near his house. The craft used equipment "fantastic and far beyond our own," the farmer said.

■ January 1967: City, county and state police cars were dispatched to an area east of Galesburg after receiving reports of a large UFO, "bigger than a trailer," with blue lights and a funnel on top. One Knoxville area farmer and several other motorists reported that the UFO "was round, big as a house, had no flying lights but let off a greenish-blue light." The craft's vibrations could be felt in the farmer's truck as it followed him along the Victoria blacktop about 7:30 p.m.

Also that month, several sightings were reported between Peoria, Monmouth, and Quincy. "The funny thing is you never see them leave exactly," said one Hancock County witness.

■ September, 1966: A Peorian walking in East Peoria in the early morning saw "a glow in the sky. It got bigger and bigger — three times the size of the moon. Then suddenly it disappeared," leaving what seemed to be a white vapor trail.

POST-DISPATCH, St. Louis, MO - Dec. 28, 1989

Lo, A Star?

Once again, the thorny controversy arises over the origin of the Star of Bethlehem, as described in E.F. Porter Jr.'s Dec. 19 article. I have an explanation, never tendered, that seems superior to others.

As a professor of physics, I have studied the unidentified flying-object phenomena in the field since April 6, 1973, at Piedmont, Mo. On my third night there, three of us saw a silent, star-like light approach close to our position and turn. At that moment, it occurred to me that a light such as this could easily have guided the wise men to the birthplace of Jesus.

In the book of Matthew it says: "When they heard the king they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them till it came and stood over where the young child was." The star went before them, meaning that it moved. Then, it stood over where the young child was, meaning that the star ceased to move. It stood still!

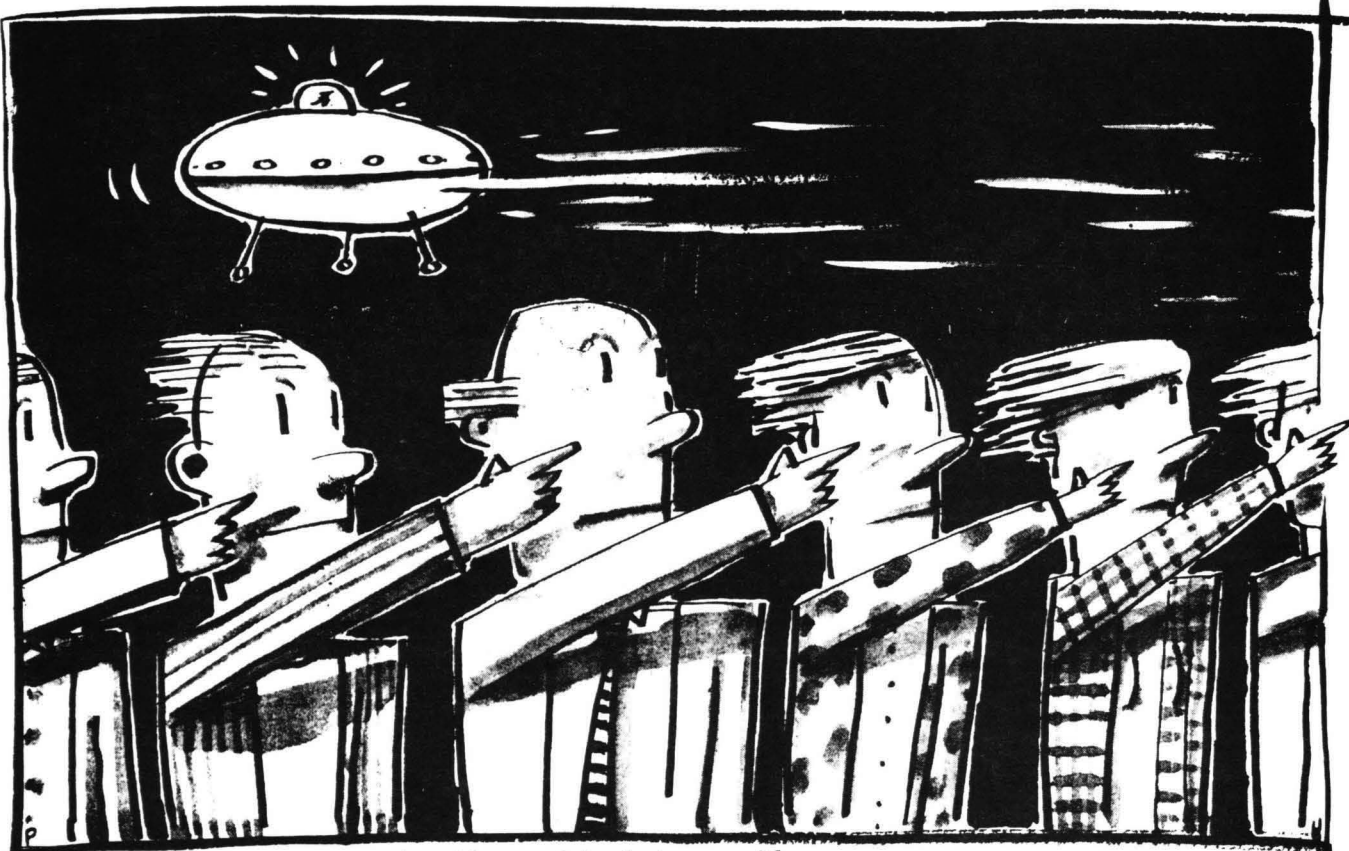
This is not the description of a real star, but the people of that time, being less advanced than we are, would be forced to use the word "star" to describe it.

Miracle to them? During many of my personal 164 UFO sightings, I have observed intelligent or intelligently controlled lights do things that some people might consider miraculous.

Harley D. Rutledge
Cape Girardeau, Mo.

CR: COUD-I

Maybe what you saw was a UFO. On the other hand, maybe you're a liar.



Allan Reta remembers October 14 as a night that was neither warm nor cool. He was standing in the front yard of his San Marcos home, holding his baby daughter in his arms. They had gone outside to look at the moon and the stars. Reta's wife was in the kitchen, studying for a history exam. Their suburban neighborhood was quiet, except for some kids playing in a garage down the street.

Suddenly, Reta noticed a pattern of red lights in the eastern sky. "It looked like a W with an extra line," he recalls. "I could tell this was something unique." The 33-year-old stockbroker, who works for the Carlsbad office of Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc., called to his wife through the kitchen window. "Honey," he said, "there's a UFO out here."

Julie Reta came outside, and both of them watched the red W move across the sky, flip over, and reconfigure itself into an elliptical shape; it looked "tilted," according to the Retas. Suddenly, the red lights began blinking and rotating in a circular motion. When the object stopped abruptly over the western horizon, the Retas moved in the same direction many UFO witnesses do: they ran to the telephone to call the police. The dispatcher listened to their story and, instead of hanging up on them, gave them a hot-line number to call.

Jerry and Janet Clark live about a mile to the east of the Retas. On the afternoon of October 14, a Saturday, the Clarks were cleaning out their motor home. Soon after dusk, as they were locking up the RV, Janet Clark noticed some red lights in the sky; she describes them as "an oval pattern, but lying down flatter." Janet's husband also saw the lights, and the couple gathered their four teen-agers and two adult friends together and watched the UFO from the backyard deck. As the object passed over their heads, its perimeter lights turned off, and a dark shape became visible. "It looked like a boomerang, and it was massively huge," says Janet. "It was about the size of a football field." What impressed her the most, however, was the silence. "There was not one bit of noise," she states.

A second triangular object passed over the Clark group 20 minutes later. Six military jets were in pursuit. The object disappeared over the western horizon. Everyone went back into the house, and the Clarks' 15-year-old son started telephoning his friends. One of them gave him the phone number of the Orion hot line.

Orion is a group of local ufologists (pronounced *you-fol-ists*) who run a 24-hour answering service for UFO reports. Named after a constellation, Orion's purpose is to investigate UFO sightings in the San Diego area. This region

has never been known as a hot spot for alien spacecraft, but that has changed in the last four months. Orion's "field investigators" have interviewed the Retas and the Clarks (who don't know each other) and looked into numerous other cases: a dark cloud with a conical beam in the Jamul area last September 26, a boomerang with red and blue lights that landed near Escondido on October 26, a silver cigar-shaped ship that flew over La Mesa on the afternoon of December 7, and four red-lit octagons that cavorted over downtown San Diego on December 8. The UFO witnesses include two hospital secretaries, a postal carrier, a U.S. Border Patrol supervisor, a grocery store owner, and *San Diego Union* columnist Michael Grant.

Orion investigators have no explanation for the recent rash of UFO sightings — or, as they prefer to say, "alleged" UFO sightings. Orion members like to use words like "reportedly" and "supposedly"; they desperately want to appear objective, skeptical, conservative, and above all, not mentally imbalanced. Many members of the group are engineers or scientists; several work, or have worked, at General Dynamics. But behind their logical exteriors, protected by a shirt pocket full of pens, something irrational is beating away: a faith in extraterrestrial life but with no real proof of its existence. As UFO believers, they're willing to risk their reputations just to pursue the possibility that the universe contains other beings — or more precisely, higher forms of intelligence. Maybe the ufologists are motivated by a technological curiosity. Or maybe the yearning runs deeper than that.

Eric Herr is the founder of Orion. He gives his age as "late 40s" and describes himself as "a balding guy with dorky horn-rimmed glasses." But Herr more resembles a stern but kindly high school principal. He has a precise way of speaking and appreciates the same in others. ("What exactly do you mean by 'uh-huh'?" he once asked an interviewer.)

Herr moved to San Diego when he was a year old and has been busy accumulating information ever since. Although he

Story by Brae Canlen
Illustrations by Peter Hannan

has a degree in English literature, Herr shies away from reading fiction. It's not, he says, a productive use of his time. He is vague about how he supports himself; it has something to do with private investigative work, but not the kind that involves following errant spouses. What he prefers talking about are his two inventions: a weapon that causes temporary paralysis and a device that can create silence in a room full of noise.

Like several other members of Orion, Herr belongs to Mensa, the international high-IQ club. Membership in Orion doesn't require a written test, but those interested in joining do undergo a screening of sorts. Basically, Herr talks to them for a while and decides whether they make the grade. Members must be objective, intelligent, and knowledgeable, he says, with the emphasis on objective. Crackpots need not apply. His rejection rate is three out of four. "I've been ruthless," Herr admits. One individual initially passed muster but was later rejected. ("He wasn't kicked out," Herr explains. "I just didn't call him for meetings.") The man's offense? Stating his admiration for a certain UFO author who professes, among other things, that space beings capture Earth children, grind them up, add peroxide, and smear the mixture on their skin for nourishment.

Herr is slightly embarrassed over his apparent snobbery. "I don't want to sound like a fat-head dictator," he says. "It's not a person's IQ or cultural background that I care about. It's their judgment. For every two rational, objective people interested in this subject, there are two or three gullible, overly credulous believers." The problem with the overly credulous, he says, is that they reflect badly on all the ufologists. Herr cringes at the mention of Ruth Norman, leader of the Unarius group in El Cajon. The 89-year-old Norman has received extensive publicity over the years for her predictions of a Martian landing in Jamul. (She now predicts the landing date to be the year 2001.) Another local group, the San Diego UFO Society, is "new-age oriented" and "profoundly credulous," according to Herr. But he likes the society's leader and often refers Orion rejects to him. While membership in the UFO society does not preclude anyone from Orion, only one woman, a retired schoolteacher, belongs to both groups.

The 31 individuals on Orion's roster are a mixed bag of occupations and callings. In addition to several engineers, there are two artists, a pharmacist, a computer programmer, two homemakers, an arbitrator for the state labor commissioner, a playwright, a medical researcher at UCSD, and a printer. Meetings occur every other month, usually at someone's home. Herr had hoped to rent a meeting room at the Reuben H. Fleet Space Theater and Science Center but was barred by the

(continued on page 5)

center's policy that prohibits rentals to groups associated with astrology or UFOs.

The "kook" stigma continually dogs the serious ufologists. It explains why so many of them are cautious, even paranoid, about any kind of publicity. (Several members of Orion did not want their names mentioned or asked that their workplaces not be disclosed. Herr himself refused to be photographed.) Secrecy has always been an element of ufology, partly due to the U.S. government's official position on unidentified flying objects. Military and intelligence officials are notoriously tight-lipped on the subject. Various agencies have investigated UFOs since the 1940s; much of this information remains wrapped up as "classified." (Ufologists are starting to lift the corners of that cloak with Freedom of Information Act requests and lawsuits.) But could the FBI, the CIA, the FAA, the military, and the state department all be involved in a conspiracy of silence that spans the terms of nine different presidents? Hard-core ufologists swear it's true.

Some Orion members (Herr included) have never seen a UFO. Others witnessed an inexplicable object in the sky one day and were hooked. All find comfort in each others' company. A year and a half ago, Herr formed the Orion group by combing the membership lists from three national UFO organizations. He found 63 people living in the San Diego area and called each one. Some fell into the slimmer margins of sanity, while others were simply eccentric. But 21 individuals who fit Herr's criteria expressed an interest in joining the group. These were the serious types who planned their vacations around UFO conferences and read their ufology journals faithfully. The UFO community is linked, worldwide, by two monthly publications that summarize recent UFO encounters. They also serve as a forum for the various research projects being conducted by ufologists. The writing style is dry, detailed, full of references to other ufology books and articles. They read like medical journals or legal briefs. These are magazines that only a ufologist would take to the beach.

Soon after the group was formed, it contacted police departments and sheriff stations throughout the county, asking them to refer UFO reports to Orion. Some law-enforcement agencies never responded, but most were quite willing to send their UFO calls elsewhere. The Orion phone is hooked up to an answering machine that is checked every two hours, on the average.

About 75 percent of the calls turn out to be honest mistakes: weather balloons, cloud formations, flares dropped from jets, sun dogs (the reflection of sunlight off ice crystals in the air), and certain stars. Venus, which can be seen either at sunrise or sunset, has confused more than a few skywatchers; air traffic controllers have reportedly given the planet permission to land. Fewer than five percent of UFO reports are hoaxes, usually the work of teen-agers. The remaining 20 percent are considered bona fide UFOs — meaning that their place of origin cannot be determined.

Investigators usually interview their subjects (in person) within 24 hours of a sighting, while their memories are still fresh. If there are several witnesses, each is questioned separately to prevent unintentional parroting. Field interviewers use a set of detailed guidelines and forms printed by a national ufology organization. If the sighting is impressive, an Orion member will formally write up the case and send it to one of the UFO journals. These publications receive submissions from all over the world; being published in one of them is considered an honor. In the years that Herr has been researching UFOs in San Diego, he can remember only one local case that made it into the big leagues of ufology. It involved a flying saucer landing in Lemon Grove.

The date was November 16, 1973. Two 11-year-old boys were walking through the back yard of a vacant house on Crane Street at about 7:00 p.m. when they encountered a dark, disc-shaped object approximately 20 feet in diameter. It had a silver dome on top and was perched on three spindly legs. When one of the boys rapped it with a flashlight, the object rose about five feet off the ground, a row of green lights around the rim began blinking in sequence, and the object began rotating. Then it shined a red light on the children. They turned and ran home to tell their parents.

One of the boys' mothers called the sheriff's department, and someone there contacted Herr. The next day, he examined the field where the saucer had landed and found that the tall grass was swirled in a counterclockwise direction — as though something had blown it down. Inside the depressed circle were two holes, each one six inches in depth and width. The indentations were made, perhaps, by the spindly legs.

Odd patterns of flattened vegetation are now at the center of a controversy between UFO believers and detractors. During the last four years, more than 600 such unexplained configurations have been discovered in Great Britain. The perfectly geometric formations are found amid otherwise undisturbed crops or fields of grass. Scientists have speculated that the atmosphere contains spinning balls of air that push down on the vegetation. The other explanation involves visiting spaceships.

Physical indentations alone would not build a strong case, according to Herr. A good UFO sighting involves several kinds of evidence and multiple witnesses. For several nights following the Lemon Grove incident, Herr and other UFO investigators canvassed the neighborhood and interviewed approximately 50 people. Two adult witnesses said they saw a large lighted object take off from the vicinity of the vacant house. Nine different households remembered interference with their television sets shortly after seven o'clock — the same time the boys reported their experience. People reported that the dogs in the neighborhood were howling at that time.

The one drawback to the case was the age of the two primary witnesses. Little boys have been known to invent fantastic stories. But Herr interviewed both children and found them sincere. "They would have had to have been excellent actors," he says. The boys' behavior immediately after the sighting — "terrifically excited and scared," according to their parents — is typical for UFO witnesses. "The boys also reported some unusual sensations and behaviors that had been reported [by UFO witnesses] in the past but were not known to the general public," Herr says. Like other witnesses before them, the boys recalled that while fleeing the UFO, they felt as if they were running in slow motion.

Much of the other evidence — the swirled grass, the spooked pets, and the television static — is also common in UFO sightings. Which leads to a question ufologists love to pose: Why do so many UFO witnesses tell the same story? Numerous witnesses claim they've never read about UFOs and don't particularly believe in them. "If they're telling lies, why would their patterns be the same?" asks Herr. He says he is often impressed by the "emotional sincerity" of the people he interviews. They may not have seen a UFO, but their honesty cannot be questioned. "I've received four hoax calls in the last year, and I knew right away," he says. "Their [tone] was so mundane." Pranksters can rarely give specific evidence, especially when it comes to the electromagnetic properties of UFOs.

This area of inquiry is one of Herr's specialties. His theory, stated simply, is that UFOs emit a powerful electrical charge that ionizes the air around them. Among other effects, it shorts out the electrical connections in car engines. Herr has reviewed 414 UFO sightings where witnesses claimed that their vehicles suddenly stalled, their headlights dimmed, and/or their car radios stopped playing. UFO debunkers have postulated that the drivers panicked over a strange sight and flooded their engines. But could this have happened more than 400 times? Herr asks.

Another effect of the highly charged air is interference with radio and television transmissions. "It is virtually impossible to find a case where a UFO was operating within a quarter-mile of a radio or television and [static] didn't occur," Herr says. The UFO's electrical charge also creates a magnetic field, setting off certain kinds of burglar alarms and causing power outages. The needles on compasses reportedly spin or rotate in the presence of UFOs. Herr has analyzed 40 such cases, one of them here in Ramona.

The sighting was an especially good one because local ufologists were contacted while it occurred. The year was 1974, and Herr belonged to a group called the San Diego UFO Research Organization. Membership was open to all interested parties, and as a result, Herr says, "No one who had anything to offer wanted to join." But before one of its members absconded to Louisiana with the group's answering machine, the organization ran a UFO reporting service.

One afternoon in October, the hot line got a call from the Overfelt family. On a hill near their house, a perfectly round flying object had landed. According to the witnesses — Jeannie, Beth, Linda, and Tony Overfelt, along with their friend Pat Nelson, the object changed color from ruby red to bright white, hovered above the ground, and then streaked across the sky. While this was happening, the Overfelts' horses were whinnying and bucking, their dog was slamming into the back of his doghouse, the goats were jumping around, and the cat ran into the side of the garage, stunning itself. The family, Herr says, was not faring much better. "There were four adults in the house, and they were running around like chickens with their heads cut off," he recalls. "Jeannie Overfelt was the only sensible one."

Jeannie was the 16-year-old daughter who got on the phone and calmly described what was happening while following Herr's instructions. She checked the TV and found only blue spots and vertical bands. The radio wouldn't work either. The girl couldn't find a camera, but she did come across a compass. While the object hovered above the hill, the compass needle rapidly alternated between north and northeast; when the UFO passed overhead, the needle flew off its pivot and lodged against the glass cover. Unfortunately, by the time a field investigator reached the Overfelts' house, the UFO had disappeared. The family claimed that it was chased by a group of military jets.

As UFO sightings go, the event in Ramona was a classic case. The object was witnessed by six people for 20 minutes in broad daylight. It disturbed animals, affected a compass, and caused television static. The way it maneuvered — hovering for a while, then accelerating rapidly — was typical for UFOs. So was the object's shape; 55 percent of all reported UFOs are discs. Still, the sighting could have been better, according to Herr. What it lacked was physical evidence.

Tangible proof is something that the UFO community desperately needs. A piece of a spaceship would be nice or maybe a few extraterrestrials, living or dead. (Most ufologists believe that the government possesses both types of evidence, which it has "confiscated" in several instances.) Herr and other local investigators have tried to produce other kinds of documentation, something more scientific than personal testimonies. In the early '70s, a group of them banded together under the name of Precision Monitoring Systems. This group, composed mostly of engineers, built equipment that measured sudden changes in magnetic fields. The devices, called magnetometers, could record the date and time of magnetic disturbances that occurred within a six-mile radius. Each one was attached to an alarm in an investigator's house. Fourteen of the magnetometers were placed around the county in hopes of catching a UFO in time to film it. But the devices were too sensitive, and investigators were being roused by heavy trucks and loose change in the pockets of passersby. The magnetometers are now collecting dust in various people's homes. Mel Podell has one in his attic.

Podell saw his first UFO in the late '40s, while he was a teenager in North Carolina and before such sightings gained notoriety. Podell was waiting for a bus on a clear, sunny day. "Something dazzled me," he recalls, "I looked up and saw a bright, elliptical-shaped object. But something about it wasn't normal. It didn't move." He watched the craft hovering above him until his bus came.

The next day, Podell read a newspaper article about the UFO. According to the article, the local Air Force base identified the craft as a slow-moving bomber. Podell didn't believe it. "I knew bombers were slow in those days, but they didn't stay still for 20 minutes," he says. He sought more information on the subject and eventually joined a UFO group. While working as a chemist in the aerospace industry, Podell investigated UFO cases in whatever city he happened to be living.

Today he is retired, living in Encinitas, and able to devote his time to ufology. But "obsessive" doesn't really describe Podell's personality; even "passionate" is stretching it. "I don't like to call it a hobby," he says of his UFO work. "It's not exactly recreation. You can't really call it a vocation either. It's a

persevering interest." Like other members of Orion, Podell is caught between the presence of convincing evidence and the absence of irrefutable proof. "I'd like to see the outcome after all these years," he says. "I don't know if I have any more answers [now] than I did 30 or 40 years ago."

When the Orion hot line went into operation a year ago, it received three to four calls a month. Now the average is between ten and 15. Local ufologists give two possible reasons: more UFOs are appearing in local skies or more people are reporting their encounters. Except for two so-called "flaps" of sightings — one in the early '70s and the other between 1976 and 1978 — San Diego has been a quiet area in terms of UFO sightings. Herr and the other investigators worked on one good case a year, maybe two. The definition of "good" can vary, however. A sighting over Grossmont Hospital in 1977 was called "one of the best cases we've ever had in San Diego" by a local ufologist interviewed at the time. But Herr, who talked to the main witness, says: "It was a hazy night. I think she saw the moon and got excited."

The latest flap of sightings seems to have ended on December 8, 1989. Two secretaries at a local hospital were driving home from a Christmas party in Old Town at approximately 10:00 p.m., southbound on Interstate 5 in a pickup truck. Just after they passed the Coronado Bridge, one of them noticed something odd. Spaced along the freeway were four red blinking lights suspended in the sky. "At first I thought they were cranes," says Martha, the passenger in the truck. (She asked that her last name be withheld to spare her teen-aged daughter embarrassment at school.) "But nothing was holding [the lights] up, and I couldn't see any other parts." Martha alerted her co-worker, a woman named Mary, and the two of them tried to come up with an explanation. "I said, 'OK, Mary, let's be reasonable,'" recalls Martha. "But as we were watching [one of the lights], it took off. It just went sideways. It whooshed. It made a whooshing sound. Then we got excited. I said, 'Mary! Follow it! Follow it!'"

The two secretaries exited the freeway at Division Street. Mary knew of a church parking lot that overlooked the city, so they drove there immediately. For a half-hour, they watched the lights cavort over downtown San Diego. "They were skimming across the sky but not going very fast," says Martha. "It's like they were cruising." Every so often, the lights would gather together and then disperse at different angles. When one of the lights headed in their direction, Martha became frightened. "I said, 'Mary! It's coming straight for us!'" she recalls.

The two women crouched down, with Martha sitting on the floor of the truck. But she was able to see the object, which was a silvery blue color, pass over the vehicle. "It was so close, if I had a gun, I could have shot at it," she says. "But the thing is, it made no noise. It could go right over your house and you'd never know." She describes the craft as an octagon with a V-shaped appendage on the back. Under the V were three bright "pulsating" lights. There were no windows or doors. She compares the size to that of a bus.

Mary and Martha drove out of the parking lot after the object swooped over them. "By then we were kinda nervous, so we left," says Martha. At home she tried to persuade her husband to go back out and look for the UFOs. But he didn't believe her story. Neither did her son, but he agreed to take a ride if she bought him a Slurpee at the 7-Eleven. But the UFOs were gone by the time they ventured out. Martha's next move was to call Channel 10 to see if anyone else reported a UFO. The answer was no. But someone at the station gave her the Orion phone number.

Both women have been interviewed, and Orion hopes to find more people who saw the red lights. A large number of witnesses gives a sighting more credibility, especially if the people don't know each other, live in different areas, and work at different occupations. UFO journals and books contain testimonies from construction workers, corporate presidents, ministers, nurses, and appliance salesmen. Every socioeconomic rung is represented, although two occupations appear more often than others: airplane pilots and police officers. Pilots are in an obvious position for seeing UFOs. Police officers and sheriff deputies have the advantage of being out at night, often patrolling the remote areas that UFOs seem to favor.

Over the years, San Diego has had several sightings involving law enforcement personnel. The last one, on September 26, 1989, was witnessed by a U.S. Border Patrol supervisor, who agreed to be interviewed if his name wasn't used.

The agent was one of two dozen witnesses who reported seeing a conical-shaped beam coming out of a black cloud. The time was 6:00 a.m., shortly after sunrise. He was driving down Highway 94 in Dulzura. "It was a clear morning, except for this strange, stormy black cloud hanging low," recalls the agent. The beam "was very bright and had a definite shape to it," he says. The agent discounts an obvious explanation — the rising sun — because the object was in the western sky. As for airplanes and helicopters, the agent says he's familiar with modern aircraft, and nothing is equipped with that kind of light. "As far as there being little men on a ship, I can't tell you that," he adds. "I can't say what it was."

One of the other witnesses on September 26 was Michael Grant, a columnist for the *San Diego Union*. Grant, who saw the object from Jamul, wrote about his experience that same week. Some of Grant's readers (including the border patrol supervisor) began contacting him to say they also saw the conical beam. Grant wrote a second column about the response he received, publishing the names of the border patrol supervisor and a few other witnesses. The agent was ribbed by some of his co-workers, he says; others warned him that such an admission damaged his reputation and reflected badly on the border patrol.

But the agent also heard from another border patrolman who saw the same conical beam on the same day in Bonita. UFO sightings are not uncommon among border patrol employees, he says, relating stories he's heard from agents who worked for him in Nevada and Vermont. While this is his first UFO sighting, the supervisor's parents had a strange experience many years ago. They were camping next to Willow Lake, Wyoming, when they saw a huge, silver, cigar-shaped object with a green vapor trail. It flew over their heads in the middle of the afternoon. That night, on the radio, they heard that the object had been widely seen. The supervisor remembers that

(continued on page 6)

his parents, whom he describes as "ultraconservative," did not like talking about the experience.

Despite what he's seen and heard, the border patrol supervisor won't express a belief in visitors from outer space. "I'm a Christian person, and I don't know," he says. Maybe all these spaceships are really top-secret military aircraft, he suggests. The agent also has doubts about people who claim they've been in contact with visitors from outer space. "If [extraterrestrials] want to learn about humans, you'd think they wouldn't pick out the nuts," he says. "Why don't they park on some senator's lawn? Why do they always [visit] some yo-yo with an IQ of 60?"

UFO "contactees" are among the more dubious members of the UFO community. Contactees receive communications from space aliens, usually through mental telepathy. The messages are often warnings about air pollution, nuclear annihilation, and other doomsday possibilities. Equally implausible are the "abduction" cases. During the last two decades — and especially during the last five years — hundreds of people have reported being immobilized in their cars or homes, transported into alien spacecraft, and physically examined by strange-looking creatures. The archetypal aliens, as described by abductees, are short (four to five feet) beings with large heads, cat-like eyes, and translucent skin. Many of those abducted believe they were kidnapped several times during their lives, often beginning in their childhoods. (Their memories are usually plumbed during hypnosis.) Furthermore, some claim that their children or their parents had similar experiences. Ufologists have found that UFO sightings and abductions tend to run in families. Some speculate that the aliens "select" certain people and follow them for years, using the same approach as a medical or social scientist.

Herr and other members of Orion don't advertise the fact that they believe in alien abductions, but most of them do. Herr says he initially had his doubts, but the similarities in all the abduction cases have made him into a believer. "Yes, it's improbable," Herr admits. "But probability is no guarantee of reality. The fact that it's improbable doesn't mean it isn't true. The point we have to keep in mind is that the [UFO] phenomenon is not a natural one." Concerning the "repeat witnesses" — those who repeatedly see UFOs — Herr says: "Every sighting, without exception, is an intentional display on the part of the UFO occupants. They seem to be interested in people with psychic ability. I've never talked to a repeat witness who didn't have some sort of paranormal experience — either telepathy, precognitive dreams, or just knowing other people's thoughts on occasion."

Herr has investigated several abduction cases, and the most credible one, he says, was a former police reservist who lived in Spring Valley. The man, who now works as a computer repairman, will only allow his first name to be used.

David was driving home from Alpine late one night in 1981. As he passed by the Singing Hills Country Club, he noticed something odd in his headlights: a dark, disc-shaped object was hovering about 15 feet above the road. It was the size of a railroad boxcar. David's car stopped almost instantly, and a bright light flashed in his face. The next thing he knew, his car was moving again, and the large disc was rising rapidly. David took out his service revolver and shot at the object several times. Then he turned around and drove home at a high speed. Once inside the house, he locked the door and aimed his gun out the front picture window. "They're out there," he told his wife. "They're going to get me." She took the gun away from him and called the neighbors. The next morning, David couldn't remember any part of the incident.

In the days that followed, David suffered from headaches. His neck, wrists, and ankles were sore and had abrasion marks. Herr heard about the case (he doesn't remember how) and persuaded David to meet with a hypnotist. While under hypnosis, David recalled two small creatures taking him from his car and later putting him back in. He was able to draw a picture of them, but that's all he could remember. David did report, however, that his digital watch changed from a.m. to p.m. that night. Also, the tape in his cassette player, as well as the ones on the dashboard, were garbled. He also had trouble starting his car, which was less than a year old. The battery and electronic ignition were ruined and had to be replaced.

Herr has kept track of David over the last eight years in hopes of bringing him to a more skilled hypnotist. Herr would also like to find Daniel Flemming and Richard Thiel, the two Lemon Grove boys (who would be about 26 years old today) and ask them to undergo hypnosis. Like the police reservist, the children had a memory lapse, a period of time they couldn't account for. (This is taken as a sign of a possible abduction.) All ufologists seem to have cases they can't put to rest. Years after the initial incident, they're still trying to gather more evidence.

Peter Schlesinger, a manufacturing engineer at Rohr Industries, has been investigating local UFO sightings for the last 15 years. He's worked on maybe ten good cases, he says, but the one involving the disappearing cops still haunts him. It was on May 27, 1978, that he got a call about a triangular craft next to the Chula Vista Harbor Drive-In. One of the magnetometers belonging to Precision Monitoring Systems had been set off. UFO witnesses were also calling the Chula Vista Police Department and the sheriff's station in Imperial Beach. Schlesinger and another field investigator were dispatched to the Imperial Beach pier. When they arrived, fishermen were walking towards the shore, leaving their gear behind. "They wouldn't talk to us," recalls Schlesinger. "They just stared at us, blankly, like zombies." The investigators were able to question a young couple with a baby, who ran a concession stand on the pier. They were very frightened, he says, and so was their dog; it had squeezed under the bed and couldn't get out.

After taking a report on the UFO, the investigators went to Chula Vista to question three policemen and a dispatcher who saw the UFO from the station's roof. Schlesinger spoke with two of the policemen that night, but when he called them the next day to arrange a follow-up interview, their supervisor said they were not available for comment. Schlesinger, a former SDPD officer, obtained their home addresses that same day through a friend in the Chula Vista Police Department. He and the other investigator immediately drove over to the officers' houses. But no one was home, and he could see through the front windows that both places were vacant. "We could not understand what happened. We thought we had the wrong

addresses," recalls Schlesinger. He double-checked with his source and was told the addresses were correct. He also learned that the two officers no longer worked for the Chula Vista Police Department.

Three years later, Schlesinger located one of the officers, using a nationwide network of UFO investigators who assist on each others' cases. But the officer, who now worked for a police department in Montana, refused to be interviewed. Schlesinger admits that the story sounds incredible — especially the part about the two officers moving out of their houses in less than 24 hours. He speculates that some government agency either scared them off or offered them a lot of money to relocate.

Last December 10, the members of Orion got together for one of their infrequent meetings. They drove from Lakeside, from Solana Beach, from National City, and from Rolando. This was not, however, a Christmas party. From the moment they walked into Mel Podell's house, the talk was about UFOs. The ufologists discussed the recent film version of the book *Communion* (overall review: forgettable); a "newsletter" they received from the author of *Communion* (Is he authentic or just out to make a million?); a 1990 calendar of UFO pictures (some of them looked retouched, it was noted); and the recent sightings around San Diego (who investigated them, and what did they find?).

John Andrews, the owner of a Lemon Grove company that makes airplane models, showed off a stack of color photos. By spending two days outside the fence of a military testing range in Nevada, Andrews was able to photograph the Stealth bomber in flight. Also known as the B2, the Stealth bomber is dark, metallic, and shaped like a boomerang. Put colored lights around the perimeter, and it matches many UFO descriptions.

Ufologists admit that some unexplained spacecraft may belong to the military. "But why," asks Herr, "would [the military] test them over populated areas at all hours of the day and night? Why would they have been testing them 40 years ago?" He also doesn't think that human technology can produce aircraft that make 90-degree turns or zigzag across the sky, moving from one horizon to the other in a matter of seconds. Herr points out that all jets make some noise — even the Stealth bomber. "It is neither silent nor can it hover," he says.

Perhaps for this reason, the UFO community is astir over a series of sightings in Gulf Breeze, Florida — despite the fact that Gulf Breeze is situated between four military air stations. Pat Watson, a new member of Orion who recently relocated from Florida, researched the Gulf Breeze cases while writing a free-lance magazine article. Watson obliged the other Orion members with a lengthy, detailed report on what she uncovered: 73 UFO sightings in that area over the last two years; 135 witnesses, including a city councilwoman and numerous retired military officers; almost 100 photographs of various aircraft; and several suspected abductions. Watson also reported strange personal experiences while working on the UFO article. For example, she would be interviewing someone on the phone and the line would start to crackle. Or her word processor would "blip out," she said, "as though it was being accessed."

Orion members discounted Watson's suspicions of alien interference; it was probably the military listening in, they speculated. Articles about the Gulf Breeze cases have appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Washington Times*, and the *Miami Herald*, but Orion members were surprised that the story has not received more national attention. Someone suggested an "unspoken agreement" in the press when it comes to the topic of UFOs. Others nodded their heads knowingly.

During a refreshment break, Orion members talked about their UFO experiences. A pharmacist for Fedco said he's never seen a UFO. Neither had an aerospace engineer working at General Dynamics. But the engineer said he was always fascinated with the subject, even as a child. "I would make flying saucers from plates and hang them from the ceiling," he recalled. Two women critiqued the Gulf Breeze report; the best approach, they agreed, would have been to dog the Air Force "tooth and nail" for more information.

During the second half of the meeting, Herr and Podell updated the group on the spate of recent sightings. In addition to the San Marcos case, there was a report in Rancho Santa Fe from a woman pushing a baby stroller. She claims to have seen a strange object with dangling tentacles flying among some hot-air balloons. An investigator checked with the balloon companies, and none of the pilots could remember seeing anything strange that day. (One company said it has a balloon with dangling ribbons, but it had been grounded for weeks.) The conical-shaped beam reported in Michael Grant's column remains a mystery; no other physical evidence has surfaced, and Grant wasn't interested in pursuing it further. "It was just a social phenomenon to him," Herr reported.

A November case in Escondido has also hit a dead end. A middle-aged couple is adamant about seeing a boomerang with red and blue lights land sometime after midnight near Highland Valley Road. The couple awakened their landlady and her daughter, who also saw the object. But no other witnesses have been found, and the original couple has become uncooperative with the Orion investigator. ("Our dear [member] David Ortiz asked the fellow if he'd been drinking," Herr later confides. "Now he won't talk to us.") The day before the Orion meeting, the hot line got a call from a postal carrier named Stan Ford who spotted a huge, black, cigar-shaped aircraft in La Mesa. It was at 11:00 a.m., and the sky was clear of clouds. The postman went into a nearby store and brought the owner outside to see it, according to Herr. Both the postman and the store owner have been interviewed, but once again, no other witnesses have surfaced.

Podell mentions that Orion's phone number, listed as "UFO Reporting Service" in the white pages, will now appear in the North and East County directories. But the additional listings mean an additional charge, and the telephone bill has risen to \$17 a month. Which leads to the mundane subject of membership dues. "Our budget is dwindling," says Podell. "It's down to the \$20 mark." The membership dues — \$12 a year — are normally collected in July, and Podell requests that some people pay them in advance. Herr mentions that five or six of those present have never paid any dues.

"Are there any suggestions as to where we can go with this group and what we should do?" Herr asks. Someone offers the idea of writing a letter to Duncan Hunter, who could assist the

group in obtaining classified information on UFOs. But the idea dies after a cynical comment about politicians. Herr mentions that the recent sightings around San Diego should be written up and mailed to the UFO journals. He also suggests compiling an archive of all UFO sightings in San Diego's history. Neither task turns up any volunteers. But the group is intrigued by the idea of a debate between Orion members and some local UFO detractors, most notably Elie Shneur.

Shneur, owner of a biomedical research company, is the founder of the San Diego Skeptics. "Why in the world are you writing an article on that?" he asked when contacted on the subject of UFOs. Shneur says that despite all the data accumulated by ufologists, they have yet to come up with one piece of solid, overwhelming, irrefutable proof. Why has there been no physical evidence left behind? he asks. Shneur says he visited the site of a supposed UFO landing in South America. Ufologists gave him a piece of metal from the site, saying that the substance was an alloy unknown on Earth. Shneur took the substance to a university lab and tested it himself. "It turned out to be a plain alloy from some kind of melted cookware," he says.

Concerning the large number of witnesses on some UFO cases, Shneur says, "Hundreds of people are easily mesmerized." What would it take to convince him that space aliens have visited Earth? A photograph or a videotape of an extraterrestrial walking out of a spaceship. Or a UFO sighting so remarkable that it makes the front pages of all the major newspapers. Or physical evidence that is validated by a panel from the National Academy of Sciences. "The burden of proof is on them," Shneur says, adding that he'd be glad to debate the local ufologists anytime. "I'll make mincemeat out of them."

Herr's response? "The scientific community has been unyielding in its hostility and dogma against UFOs." While he readily admits that there's no irrefutable proof, Herr claims that "professional skeptics" like Shneur are not really familiar with the evidence that does exist. "They don't just doubt, they deny. They deny even the possibility." Herr and the other ufologists would like to see a serious, thorough, and well-financed research effort on the subject of UFOs. Someday, he hopes, ufology will take its rightful place in the world of mainstream science. "If UFOs are a valid phenomenon," he says, "then there are other beings out there. We can't think of many more things more important than that." □

I Thought I Saw a Saucer

He started as an author, evolved into a guru, and put San Diego on the UFO map. But modern-day ufologists don't have a kind word to say about George Adamski. They have, in fact, made an effort to discredit him.

Adamski often went up to Palomar Mountain to observe, photograph, and sketch UFOs. He settled in the area in the early '60s, after gaining some recognition, and notoriety, for his book *Flying Saucers Have Landed*. UFOs were still a fledgling phenomenon at the time, and Adamski was one of the movement's first leaders. His devotees lived in Wisconsin and Guadalajara, but the group's headquarters was in a white, two-story house in Valley Center. The UFO Education Center, as it was called, contained an extensive research library of UFO books and photographs; much of the material was produced by Adamski himself.

Adamski claimed to have met several visitors from outer space. In his most famous encounter, Adamski was hanging around the lobby of a downtown Los Angeles hotel when he met two out-of-town visitors. One man was from Mars and the other was from Venus. They put him in a black, four-door Pontiac and drove him into the Mojave Desert. There he had an unexpected reunion with a former acquaintance from Venus. Afterward, everyone went for a ride in a flying saucer.

George Adamski claimed, in one of his books, that two civilian scientists from the Point Loma Naval Electronics Laboratory asked him to photograph UFOs for the military. He later supplied them with "two good pictures," he wrote.

Not true, says Eric Herr, a local UFO investigator who tracked down and interviewed one of the naval electronics scientists — 39 years later. The man claimed that he and his colleague met Adamski by chance, when they stopped at a café on Palomar Mountain. "Everything he wrote about us was fiction, pure fiction," the man said. Herr published the interview in a national UFO journal.

Adamski died in 1965, leaving behind a brood of battling followers who sued each other over Adamski's copyrights. By the late '70s, the UFO center had reached cult status, and Ted Patrick was hired to deprogram some members. The group dispersed soon after. □

Long Island U.F.O. Network

by John Ford

U.F.O. Captured at Moriches Bay?

The public has, for the last forty years or so, been plagued by the persistent legend that the Government had recovered a crashed U.F.O. at Roswell, New Mexico in 1947. Those of us in the U.F.O. research community know that the U.S. Government may have more. Perhaps as many as nineteen recovered U.F.O.'s are in Government possession. They may have added another one on September 28, 1989 from what appears to be an attempt to monitor or recover a landed U.F.O. in the dunes of Smith Point Beach while an object some 574 feet or larger hovered over Moriches Bay. That's right, it happened here on Long Island. The Long Island U.F.O. Network has been investigating this occurrence since October 4, 1989 when it was first reported to them.

The incident was reported to the LIUFON hotline number by the Peterson family of Center Moriches several days after it occurred. They were fearful that the Government would learn of their identity and that they would suffer repercussions.

It all began at about 8:45 P.M., when Paul Peterson, his wife Christine and their son Robert began to hear military helicopters buzzing their backyard at tree top level. Paul noticed some very large amber lights through his Florida glass doors. He first thought they were the track lighting in his living room reflecting on the glass. But they were not, and there were at least four of them. Watching from the deck of his house he noticed that the lights were over Moriches Bay, and seemed to be about the size of a small ranch house. There were a lot of helicopters flying in the vicinity. He and his son attempted to video tape the lights, and were surprised upon later examination that the video camera did not record the light from this strange object, yet they were able to view their backyard on the recording.

Driving down to the end of Union Avenue, Paul and his son Robert were able to watch the event over Moriches Bay. They observed a large object which blended into the night sky over the Bay. The object was composed of six very large amber lights that blinked on and off in sequence. There were also some six helicopters flying in a counter clockwise flight pattern around it. Four were military, and two were Suffolk County Police copters. As these copters passed over the dune area of the Smith Point Beach they cast searchlights down towards the beach over a large blue-white object that illuminated the beach. A light was pulsating from it. The Petersons watched this for some

two and a half hours. During one point in their stay at the dock, the lights on the larger object became so bright that the Petersons had to look away. The object left the area and moved off to where the second object was, over by the dunes. The larger object started to move off towards the east when they decided to leave the area.

When the father and son reached home on Union Avenue, the commotion started up again, and the lights were back along with the helicopter escort. They observed this event now from their home's safety.

The investigation so far has determined that the police and military were indeed out there that night. The Coast Guard from Center Moriches, the Air National Guard from Westhampton and the police were supposedly responding to distress calls from a sinking boat in the bay. They admit to having three copters in the area, plus a KC-130 which was dropping parachute flares three miles off Moriches Bay, over the ocean. The distress call

was a hoax and there was no sinking boat. This much they have admitted.

On October 22, 1989 a LIUFON field team and a serial reconnaissance team searched the dunes. An area of about 75 feet in diameter composed of crushed, dead vegetation was discovered in the dunes. A second circle was observed on an island at the mouth of Moriches Inlet.

By the way, the larger object was seen in ten different locations in Connecticut an hour and fifteen minutes before the event occurred over Moriches Bay. This has been confirmed by Phil Imbrogno, noted researcher into Hudson Valley sightings.

The Petersons took approximately forty eight photographs of the large object and its lights. They have been impounded by LIUFON for scientific study. The Fund for U.F.O. Research is now studying them in Virginia (on computers). More will be said about this in my next column.

To report a U.F.O. experience contact LIUFON at 286-3212.

BLACK HILLS NEWS, Newell, SD - March 14, 1990

New Hampshire is UFO haven according to Saucer watchers

By GARY GHIOTO

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. (UPI) — New Hampshire, the state whose early bird primary attracts presidential candidates like honey draws flies, also seems a popular destination for extraterrestrials.

UFO investigators have been checking out reports of flying saucers, whirling thingamajigs and soaring pie plates in the Granite State's skies since at least 1932.

In the past year, reports of UFO sightings here have been mounting at a pace similar to the massive wave of reports in the 1960s, says Peter Geremia, state director of the Mutual UFO Network, or MUFON. Geremia says the state's noted UFO cases and continuing activity rank it No. 1 in the nation among some investigators for extraterrestrial close encounters.

"I made it that way," jokes Betty Hill, 70, a retired Portsmouth child welfare worker whose tale of a Sept. 19, 1961 experience with aliens on a lonely road in the White Mountains made headlines around the world.

AT THE TIME, Hill and her late husband, Barney, said they were abducted by humanoids from a "huge spaceship with two red lights" one terrifying night as they drove home from a visit to Montreal.

The Hills said they were questioned about life on Earth and were medically tested during a two-hour interrogation by an alien leader who communicated either verbally or telepathically.

The Hills said they were returned to the car by the aliens and told they would not remember their experience. They said it was only after undergoing hypnotic therapy by a Boston psychiatrist that they recalled the incident. Their interrupted journey was unveiled in October 1965 by the Boston Traveler newspaper.

A month earlier, New Hampshire's seacoast region nearly was panicked after three people, two of them Exeter Police officers, reported seeing a 90-foot diameter glowing red disk over a farm. "The Incident at Exeter" on Sept. 3, 1966, later detailed by Connecticut author John Fuller, touched off a massive wave of sightings across the nation.

Dozens of New Hampshire cases swell the sighting notebooks that Hill and others have compiled over the last 25 years. They range from a mysterious object that allegedly fell into a frozen farm pond in Wakefield in 1977 and was retrieved by a military unit, to the Oct. 4, 1984 sighting of a metallic craft a policeman saw soaring over Keene.

"UFOs are old hat here. We've had them here since 1932 when what folks called 'thingamajigs,' 'balls of fire' and 'metal pie plates' were spotted in Exeter and Hillsboro," Hill said. "It's getting so that the only people who report UFOs are newcomers."

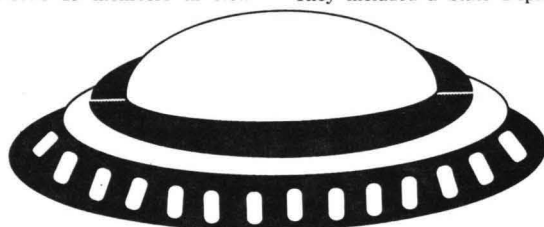
GEREMIA, WHO LEADS MUFON's 25 members in New

more than one sighting of this thing, which rules out a meteor. It's under investigation," Geremia said.

Robert Hastings of Albuquerque, N.M., frequently lectures on New Hampshire college campuses about his UFO research. His presentation relies solely on military, Central Intelligence Agency and FBI material and memos retrieved under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act.

AT A RECENT stop at New England College in Henniker, where his lecture and slide show packed a 300-seat auditorium with skeptics, true believers and the just-plain-curious.

Hastings displayed dozens of documents. They included a State Depart-



Hampshire, said sightings seem to follow cycles. "We have had more activity in the last year than I've seen in 10 years," he said.

MUFON, a respected, international non-profit group, investigates UFO reports and says the objects appear to be of extraterrestrial origin. State MUFON members recently checked out an Effingham man's bizarre report of two mysterious white lights that appeared over his home and knocked out his television reception. The lights took off and were followed by myriad red globes, Geremia said.

One evening last month, a New Hampshire MUFON team traveling back from a reported sighting in Chester, Vt., to check out a claim that local people were abducted by aliens, saw an apparent UFO streaking across the night sky.

The brilliant white, emerald, and red light moving north to east was also reported to police by a half dozen startled New Hampshire residents of Concord, Pittsfield, Wilton and Boscawon. Manchester Airport tower officials identified it as a large meteor, he said.

"We're definitely checking into this. We have heard that there was

ment memo detailing a September 1976 dogfight over Tehran, Iran, between military fighters and cylinder shaped objects, and a 1950 FBI memo regarding a crashed saucer retrieved in the New Mexico desert.

"What these documents indicate beyond a reasonable doubt is that so-called flying saucers do indeed exist. They are neither American nor Soviet secret weapons... despite repeated denials to the public by the Pentagon... the reality behind the scenes is that UFOs are considered a national security matter," Hastings said.

The Air Force discontinued Project Bluebook, its official investigation of UFOs, on Dec. 17, 1969. Based on data gathered since 1948, the Air Force said UFOs do not appear to be of extraterrestrial origin or a "threat to our national security."

Betty Hill shrugs when asked to explain the meaning behind the sightings.

"Why are they here? They're coming down every night and even more during the day," she said. "I don't have any answers."

Bizarre light display likely a Soviet rocket

El Paso witnesses tell of wild, colorful show

By Benjamin Keck and Ed Ivey
El Paso Times

A Soviet rocket blazing through the atmosphere southwest of El Paso seems the most likely explanation for mysterious fireballs and explosions reported Wednesday night, a U.S. Space Command spokesman said Thursday.

"All it was, was a rocket that re-entered the atmosphere and burned up," said Maj. Thomas Neimann, spokesman for the U.S. Space Command at the North American Air Defense center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

"The rocket had been launched a couple of days before, and we had expected it to re-enter earlier near Quebec, Canada. But it took longer than we estimated and finally came in in the southwestern United States."

El Paso police received a number of calls shortly before 7 p.m. Wednesday from people reporting an explosion or airplane crash off Martin Luther King Boulevard in Northeast El Paso. They found nothing.

Larry Shashy, an El Paso roofing contractor, isn't completely convinced by Neimann's explanation.

"What I saw appeared to be piloted or navigated," Shashy said. "I'm a rational person, and I do not panic. What I saw was an object, and it stopped over the mountain for about 10 seconds, then went east across the mountain, circled back and went over the mountain again."

Shashy said his 15-year-old daughter and a friend were with him when they saw "a large orange ball" that appeared to be southwest of Sunland Park,

N.M.

"We were driving south on Doniphan and were near the SWIG cotton plant," Shashy said. "My daughter, who is a space nut and reads about that stuff, said it looked like the space shuttle looks when it re-enters the atmosphere. The ball got bigger and bigger, and then it appeared to have exploded. There were sparks on the bottom and shooting arms on the top."

"Then my daughter said, 'Look what's coming toward us.' It was a series of lights, about 30 individual lights, and it was V-shaped. The lights were red, green and white. They weren't bright. They were dull colors. The way it was shaped, I got the sensation of flying ducks, the way they fly in a V-shaped formation."

"I stopped the car. As it passed over us, we could see a definite image. There were high, thin clouds. This object was about 30,000 feet above, but we could see an image. It floated silently, effortlessly and smoothly."

Hugh Middleton, 19, said he was driving on Janway in East El Paso when he saw the show in the sky over Juarez.

"I just happened to look over and I see a real big plume of white smoke, then these lights come out. This thing came out of the smoke. The best example I could give is it was a rectangle with a bunch of lights on it," Middleton said.

He said it was flying "straight as an arrow north, directly over us. It was noiseless. We could hear a jet passing overhead right after the objects went out of sight, but we never heard the ... whatever it was."

Are cats the contact?

A delegate to the UFO convention at Eureka Springs last weekend who said she'd been abducted and raped by aliens also said that she suspected her cat of involvement.

"I know that's crazy, but you don't know my cat," she said.

We don't know her cat, but we know cats, we know The Essential Cat, and we wouldn't put such behavior past it for a minute. That cats are signaling, perhaps even directing, alien craft makes more sense than some UFO stories we've heard. It's pretty obvious that cats are up to something; collaboration with aliens might be it. The Nazis and the Soviets made a pact, remember. The Baltic states do.

Exposure of the cat connection was the major breakthrough of the Eureka Springs convention. Otherwise, it was mostly keeping the UFO house in order, with the convention

serving as a support group for people who've been abducted off and on. Evidently, there's not much that can be done to stop the snatching at this point, especially if the cats are in cahoots with the perpetrators. The state director of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) reported he is currently working with about four abduction cases in Arkansas. He reminded us these cases are not uncommon.

Eureka is a good place to have a convention like this. It's sort of an open city; if the aliens are ever going to set down where we all can see them, Eureka Springs is a place they might choose. The mayor has proclaimed that the first extra-terrestrial to arrive will be an honorary citizen. He better get a guarantee of good behavior, though. A mob of rowdy aliens abducting and raping indiscriminately won't help the tourist trade.

Memory hid UFO horror, speaker says

BY BILL BOWDEN
Democrat Fayetteville Bureau

EUREKA SPRINGS - Lauren Rose knew she had a problem when she awoke naked one morning lying in 2 feet of snow outside her Colorado home.

Rose, 41, now of Alexandria, Va., said she was "obsessed with the sky" and "grew up in a perpetual fog." She saw therapists for more than 20 years before she realized through hypnosis that her problems were due to alien abductions.

Rose was the first speaker Friday at the annual Ozark UFO Conference in Eureka Springs. About 200 UFOlogists - that's what they call themselves - from all over the world are attending the three-day conference, which began Friday.

Mayor Richard Schoeninger of Eureka Springs kicked off the conference by reading a proclamation in which he said the first alien brought to him would be named an honorary citizen and given a free trolley pass.

In her address, "The Trauma of Abduction: Reclaiming Your Memory and Your Life," Rose spoke of "crippling anxiety and depression" through most of her life because of the abductions.

"This very serious issue does effect our mental health, our belief system and our own human nature," Rose said.

"I never realized UFOs were playing a part in my life until three years ago. I've had therapy since I was 18 for anxiety and depression. I was even abducted during my therapy when I didn't know what was wrong and was desperately looking for help."

Rose said she grew up feeling she was always being watched and followed.

"When I was 14 to 16 years old," she said, "I would get up at one or two in the morning and would feel compelled to walk into the forest near where we lived in Colorado."

Rose said she could recall going into the woods, but not what happened there, until

she discovered hypnosis.

"Imagine someone coming out of the trees," she said, "making you take your clothes off and forcing you through a series of painful examinations ..."

"I didn't remember those times, but my body did. That's why I was filled with adrenalin afterwards."

"I realized in that abduction that I was nothing more than a guinea pig. They stripped the clothes off me, did the job they had to do and just dropped me."

Rose referred to the examinations as rape, not because of sexual reasons but because the aliens had power over her.

Rose described the aliens as colorless with fragile bodies and large heads. She said their examinations left no scars on her body, as some abductees have claimed. She said she appeared to recognize one of them who had apparently abducted her before.

When still confused about the abductions, Rose said she became an alcoholic and couldn't keep a job because she couldn't concentrate. She constantly dreamed about UFOs.

One day, Rose said, she awoke semiparalyzed. She stumbled into the living room and collapsed on the sofa.

"A being appeared to me at the end of the sofa," said Rose. "It was three to four feet high with a brilliant gold core and white brilliance around. It said, 'I am the archangel of Michael, and it's time for the great awakening.'"

The being vanished and Rose regained control of her body.

"I called my boss and said, 'I just had a visit by the archangel of Michael, and I won't be in for work today,' " she said. "I wasn't fired, by the way."

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - April 7, 1990

ORANGE CO. REGISTER, Santa Ana, CA - Jan. 28, 1990

Easterners see strange light in sky

Aerospace official says bluish-green object could have been large meteorite

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Thousands of people in the eastern United States reported seeing a strange bluish-green light in the sky Saturday night which some experts said could have been an unusually large meteorite.

"We are quite confident it was not a manmade object re-entering," said Maj. Dick Adam, public-affairs officer for the North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado Springs, Colo. "We have no idea what it was."

Robert Gribble of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, a private group, reported receiving dozens of calls.

"Based on descriptions that have been given, I'd say we're dealing with a very large solid, a very large meteor," Gribble said.

"Descriptions run from a blue-green to a bright green coming down in an angular descent leaving a short tail behind it," Gribble said. He said everyone who had telephoned the center described the object "as coming down and hitting the ground in their area, which is very common in something like this."

Among those who reported seeing the object was David Arnold, an air-traffic control supervisor at Dulles Airport, where the sighting occurred at 7:10 p.m. EST (4:10 p.m. PST).

"We don't know exactly what it

was, a meteor or a satellite," said Arnold, who has been an air-traffic controller for 25 years. "It lasted 25 to 30 seconds and went from brilliant white to an orange as it broke up."

"We've seen things like this before, but much higher. This was quite brilliant. It appeared to have dissipated completely."

However, not all witnesses saw the object change color and appear to disappear.

A television reporter in Oak Hill, W.Va., one place where there was a flurry of initial sightings, was at the home of one of the first witnesses nearly three hours after the initial sighting and reported the light still was hovering in the sky.

Kitty Harrison, assignment editor for WOAY-TV in Oak Hill, W.Va., said what she saw was "absolutely not" a meteorite.

"I've seen meteorites before and this doesn't resemble the type of meteorite I've seen," she told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from the home of Elizabeth Gray and her son, Chris, in Stanaford, West Va.

"What we are seeing is a very bright bluish white object that appears to be moving downward toward the horizon in an erratic spiraling motion," Harrison said. "It is very slow. You have to keep your eye fixed to something stationary in order to see its progress."

Chris Gray, 13, was carrying firewood to the house when he saw

the object.

"I saw the sky light up and then I didn't pay no attention to it until my brother said he saw the same thing," he said. "I was looking in the binoculars and I saw this purplish football with rings around it and it was going around in circles and stuff."

"I saw the sky light up for the meteorite and then about half an hour later I saw what I'll call a UFO, and then when the television station called me back they told me to tape it on my cam corder and while we were taping it was changing colors and it started separating and going back together," said Chris Gray.

Among the witnesses in the Washington area was Andrew Guthrie, a news editor at the Voice of America since 1983.

"It was a dramatic thing to see," Guthrie said. "I almost drove off the road." He said the object appeared to be "three-or-four times treetop level" and about the size of a grapefruit with an "incandescent bright light at the center like a magnesium flare."

An AP reporter walking along Pennsylvania Avenue in the Foggy Bottom section of Washington recalled thinking initially that it was some type of manmade firework similar to flares shot into the sky on the Fourth of July because it was very bright and distinct, ap-

peared to be moving across the sky at about the same speed typical of such displays, seemed to have a tail and appeared to be low enough to have been shot from the balcony of one of the multistory apartment buildings in the area.

However, the light remained on a flat trajectory, moving rapidly across the sky without fading in intensity.

The witness then surmised that it could have been a fog-shrouded light on a fast-moving helicopter until realizing the night was clear and that the tell-tell "chopper" sound of a helicopter was absent.

A photographer driving in the same area at the time reported similar observations, but also saw the object appear to change color and break up. "It looked like it was really close," he said. "It looked like it was really there."

Sightings were reported from an area ranging from West Virginia and, along the Eastern Seaboard, from Virginia to New York.

Adam said the Air Force was getting calls from all those areas.

"We cannot correlate the sighting with any of the information of the objects we are tracking in space," Adam said. "We are tracking approximately 6,800 objects. Our mission is to keep track of what's in space. Whatever it was, it wasn't one of the objects we're tracking."

Soviet Scientist Bares Evidence of 2 Objects at Tunguska Blast

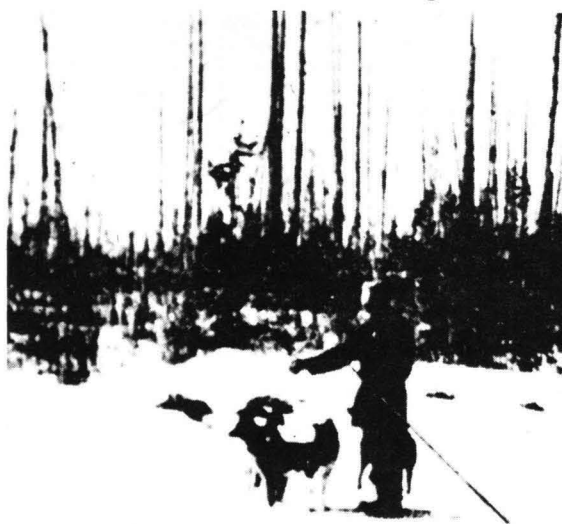
First in a two-part series.

From time to time we've discussed in this column the mystery of the June 30, 1908 nuclear-like explosion that devastated some 770 square miles of Siberian forests in an area that has come to be known as Tunguska. The epicenter of the blast was so remote it would take until the 1920s for a Soviet expert on meteorites, Leonid Kulik, to finally reach the area and prove that something indeed awesome had taken place. What is particularly interesting about Tunguska is that unlike other popular mysteries such as UFOs or ESP, no one in his right mind could deny or even doubt that the explosion occurred.

Although we know the explosion was caused by the crash of an unknown body from outer space, there is a heated debate on its origin — whether it was a comet, small asteroid or meteorite, as the majority of the scientific community believes; a UFO or nuclear-powered extraterrestrial spaceship, as some Soviet scientists and writers maintain; or some kind of plasma body, mini-black hole or other exotic hypothesis proposed by both Soviet and American scientists.

We will not repeat the details of the Tunguska phenomenon or its epic investigation by Kulik, Khrunov, Zolotov and others, as these were already discussed at some length in previous columns (October 23 and 30, 1986 and June 30, 1988). For those who might have missed these articles, however, we'll mention the estimated yield of the Tunguska blast, so that you can get an idea of the truly awesome power that was unleashed over the remote Siberian taiga (forest) on that morning of June 30, 1908.

Sergei F. Bulantsev, a senior foreign correspondent with the official Soviet news agency Tass, visited the Tunguska site in 1978 and 1979 in the company of Alexei Zolotov, a physicist from Kalinin who is one of the USSR's foremost experts on Tunguska. During an interview at the recent International UFO Congress in Frankfurt, West Germany, Bulantsev remarked that the Tunguska explosion was equivalent to "2,000 Hiroshima bombs!" When I asked him if that figure was commonly accepted by the scientific community, he responded that



LEONID KULIK, discoverer of the Tunguska blast site in the 1920s, stands at epicenter of the 40-megaton blast.

"absolutely, yes; it's absolutely agreed by those who believe that this Tunguska explosion has been made by a UFO and those who suppose that it was a meteorite or comet."

A second, equivalent estimate comes from an article on UFOs published last June in *Soviet Military Review*, in which authors Kuzovkin and Semyonov write that "in 1984, scientists Aleksei Dmitriyev and Viktor Zhuravlyov from Novosibirsk advanced a theory of the plasma origin of the Tungus phenomenon. As is known, the culmination of that unique event in Siberia in 1908 was a 40-megaton air explosion. There are reasons to believe that the Tungus phenomenon and UFOs have a common origin."

You can make your own calculations — the Hiroshima bomb had a yield of 20 kilotons (equivalent

to 20,000 tons of TNT) while a megaton has an explosive force equivalent to 1,000,000 tons of TNT.

If we contemplate the sobering destructive force of the Tunguska blast, it seems almost a miracle that because of its remoteness there was not a single recorded human casualty. But let's move ahead to some of the new puzzling evidence revealed by Sergei Bulantsev during our recent interview in Frankfurt.

The most interesting new fact about Tunguska was that a new detailed study of older eyewitness accounts revealed that *two* objects were seen over the area at different times on the same day. According to Bulantsev, the research was made by Dmitriyev and one of his colleagues: "They studied all the witnesses' reports available collected by Kulik, collected by Khrunov and other researchers after Kulik; they talked to sons and grandsons of those witnesses. . . . Dmitriyev studied reports of five witnesses one more time and more carefully than it was done previously by other researchers.

"Some people said they had seen the object in the morning, approximately 8:00 a.m. local time, and it exploded, but according to some other witnesses as reliable as the previous witnesses, they saw the second object — not so bright — in the afternoon. I should stress that both testimonies of witnesses are equally reliable." Furthermore, added Bulantsev, the afternoon object "was flying from east to west, and the body which exploded earlier in the morning was flying from east by north." However, the second object didn't crash but "just flew away." Bulantsev finally remarked that "one can get an impression that the second object was looking for the first one."

The second part of our exclusive interview with Sergei Bulantsev will cover more ground on Tunguska, as well as recent UFO investigations in the USSR from the perspective of a man who was closely associated to the late astronomer Dr. Felix Zigel, the father of Soviet ufology.

Copyright 1989 by Antonio Huneus

J. Antonio Huneus is a freelance science writer who has written for publications in North and South America.

Couple wonders

'What was that UFO?'

By LORI SCHOFFSTALL
Staff Writer

It wasn't a bird and it wasn't a plane and it certainly wasn't Superman. Nobody knows exactly what Donna and Tom Rode of Halifax saw the night of Jan. 31.

A flying object, which has not been identified, abruptly caught the attention of the Rodes while they were on their way to Harrisburg that Wednesday evening. The unusual flying object appeared in the clear, starlit sky at 6:30.

Tom pulled their car over to the side of Ebenezer Road, north of Halifax, to look more closely at the object in view.

Their first reaction was that it was an airplane in trouble because it was flying so low.

Donna said the object looked like a flying stingray. It was flat and had three lights. One of the lights was blinking. She said it looked like the stealth bomber, which was what caught her attention.

None of the lights was red or green, which is required on legitimate aircraft for air traf-

fic control.

Rode, who is in the travel business, knows about flying machines. This object did not have a fuselage and she estimated that it was much larger than a 747 jet and only was flying only 10,000 to 15,000 feet from the ground. The object was huge and silent.

It came from the direction of Peters Mountain and 10 minutes later was out of sight, traveling north.

Rode said she and her husband later wished they had contacted their neighbor, who is a pilot.

Looking back, she said they now think of the incident as being kind of scary, but at the time it didn't strike them as anything dangerous.

"We were just kind of dumb-struck. We didn't think about being 'beamed up,'" she said with a smile.

Rode said if her husband hadn't experienced the sighting with her, she probably

wouldn't have said anything about it to anyone because of the way most people react when they hear the term UFO.

Despite what many people have suggested, Rode said she did not see a blimp, meteorite or comet.

"I just wanted someone to give me a logical explanation," she said.

Rode immediately called Air Traffic Control at the Harrisburg International Airport, Middletown, and local television and radio stations to see if anyone else reported an unusual flying object, but the response was negative.

A year ago, Rode's sister Fern Bowman and her husband, who live in the Mechanicsburg area, saw an object that was described the same way.

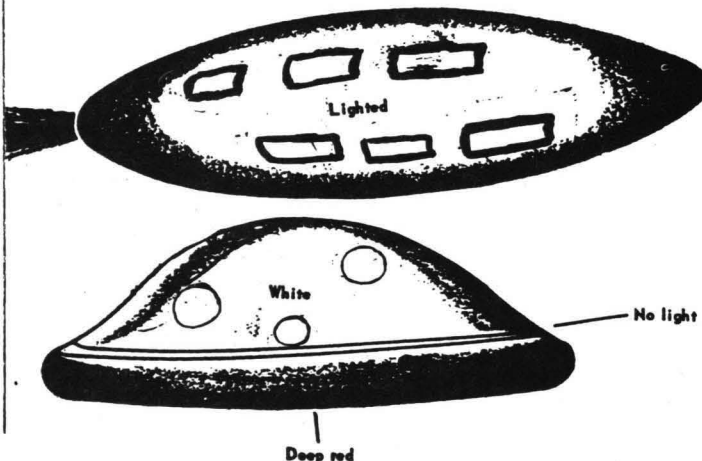
If anyone else saw an unusual flying object that night, call the Upper Dauphin Sentinel at 692-4737.

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

By Herman and Mit Mit

On December 27th an unidentified flying object was sighted on the south side of Waupaca. It appeared to be a transparent oval with six lighted windows. On January 21st approximately 5:30 pm another UFO was sighted north west of Waupaca. It was shaped like a triangle with a deep red light on the bottom.

Because of these sightings a poll was taken on UFO's. Questions were given to high school students and teachers. Mr. Vincent said yes, he believed in UFO's but he's never seen one, he would like to see one some day. Heather Wennesberg said yes, she has seen a UFO. She's not afraid of the UFO, but is afraid of the bad publicity she would be afraid of what might be in it. Mrs. Gustke believes in UFO's but has never seen one. She thinks life exists on other planets because this universe is so vast and unknown. Tina Dietz believes in UFO's but has never seen one and would never. Mr. Adomavich believes in UFO's also but has never seen one either. He would like to see one someday. Tammy Liebe doesn't believe in UFO's and doesn't think there's life on other planets. If any UFO's are sighted in the area, please call the UFO's 24 hour hot line.



CR: R. Heiden

J. ANTONIO HUNEUS/SCIENCE FRONTIERS

Soviet Journalist Sees Similarities in U.S., Soviet UFO Phenomena

Second in a two-part series.

If we listen to Sergei F. Bulantsev, a Soviet UFO investigator who works for the Soviet news agency Tass as chief of its Foreign Press Bureau and senior correspondent for South Asia, both the nature of the UFO phenomenon in the USSR and its social and psychological stereotypes are very similar, if not identical, to those in the West and other nations around the world.

When I asked Bulantsev, during a recent interview at the International UFO Congress in Frankfurt, West Germany, if the Soviets were experiencing the same types of UFO cases as those reported in the West, he responded, "absolutely the same types of cases, and absolutely [the same] percentage of reliable and non-reliable cases. I don't think it's a coincidence just by chance. The thing is that it reflects the whole global picture, it happens the same in France, in USA, in Russia."

Bulantsev made it clear that both the type of cases and the problems affecting Soviet ufology are identical to those in the West. For instance, most adults are reluctant to come forward with their testimonies of unusual experiences because of fear of being ridiculed. Likewise, military pilots and other witnesses within the military or law enforcement may talk privately to investigators about certain UFO experiences, insisting however, that their names must remain confidential. Yet perhaps this fear of ridicule and professional harassment is best illustrated by the unfortunate experience of two Russian policemen, as told by Bulantsev in his Frankfurt lecture.

"It happened this summer in the European part of Russia, and a police patrol car was just patrolling in the city of Sibirsk," stated Bulantsev. "All of a sudden, a very bright object was hovering over this patrol police car and it directed a ray, a beam of light into the car. Immediately after that, the engine stopped and the two policemen inside the car were as if paralyzed; they understood everything that was happening but they

couldn't move. After some time, this object flew away. The policemen managed to start the engine and they called their headquarters. They made an official report on their unusual experience, and what was the result? First," continued Bulantsev, "they were laughed out. Secondly, they went under suspicion that they got drunk, and they were forced to undergo a test for alcohol. Certainly it was ridicule, they were not drunk! After, they were sent to a doctor for a medical check-up."

Earlier this year, two American policemen were among dozens of witnesses in Fyffe, Alabama, to report a boomerang-shaped object hovering over that town, yet their testimony was ridiculed by the TV program *Inside Edition*. What is particularly unfair, as well as inconsistent, is that the testimony of the same policemen would be certainly taken seriously if they reported a crime or a drug bust. However, the fact that they saw a UFO or were even paralyzed by it, as in the Russian case related by Bulantsev, seems to give license to skeptics and many people in the media to ridicule them and dismiss the whole thing.

Sergei Bulantsev graduated in 1969 from the Institute of Oriental Languages in Moscow, later becoming a senior correspondent in South Asia and a political analyst with the Soviet news agency Tass. At his UFO lecture in Frankfurt, however, he stressed that, "in my present capacity I have no relation with Tass and what I say doesn't represent an official point of view." During our interview, Bulantsev explained that "everyone has some kind of hobby, and some people collect coins, some people collect stamps, and I collect mysteries; so the UFO is in my collection because the UFO phenomena, as I think, as I believe, is the greatest mystery of our time."

Bulantsev became involved with UFOs some 15 years ago when he met the late astronomer, Dr. Felix Zigel, "the founder and the pioneer of Soviet ufology." Zigel graduated from Moscow University in 1942 and received his Candidate Degree in astronomy in 1948 at the USSR Academy of Sciences. According to Bulantsev, who was a close friend and colleague of the late professor, Zigel "published approximately 45 books on different aspects of astronomy" and, for many years, was a lecturer on mathematics, physics and astronomy at the prestigious Moscow Aviation Institute. He passed away in December 1988 and his Moscow UFO group is now headed by Alexander Kuzovkin, a doctor in science.

Zigel's career and contribution to Soviet ufology parallels in many ways that of the late American astronomer, Dr. J. Allen Hynek. Both were competent scientists who made their living studying and teaching astronomy, yet both will be best remembered for their pioneering work in charting the unknown waters of the UFO phenomenon in the U.S. and



ANTONIO HUNEUS NYC TRIBUNE
SOVIET JOURNALIST AND UFOLOGIST SERGEI BULANTSEV (left) interviewed by the author at the recent International UFO Congress in Frankfurt, West Germany.

USSR respectively.

Bulantsev remarked that Zigel's "popularity in the Soviet Union and in the West is that he wrote, I suppose, one dozen copyrighted manuscripts, non-published officially manuscripts on UFO landings, on UFO sightings, on UFO phenomena," which were "Xeroxed or duplicated and went all over Russia and went abroad also. It's an amazing thing," continued Bulantsev, "because Zigel used to print his manuscripts just within ten copies, no more than ten copies, for his closest colleagues, and I am very proud to say that I was one of his closest colleagues."

Zigel compiled a catalog of about one thousand UFO sightings, landings and close encounters of the third kind within Soviet territory. He did so, according to Bulantsev, with "no official support" whatsoever; and even to this day — when ufology is experiencing some kind of boom in the Soviet Union — his manuscripts have not been published officially. Bulantsev also clarified the degree of official support that the study of the so-called "anomalous phenomena" receives in Russia.

"You see," he told me, "there are some commissions created attached to the Academy of Sciences and there are some heads of commissions who are actual members, academicians or corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences, but they have a huge amount of work to be done and this is like their hobby. I'd like to stress that not one scientist in the Soviet Union gets his salary for UFO studies."

The same, of course, is true for American scientists, unless some are engaged in secret UFO research for certain units of the military or intelligence community, as many ufologists in the U.S. believe. However, even if it is semi-officially, the Soviet Academy of Sciences seems to have taken a much more active role than its American counterpart, which is still abiding to the obsolete conclusions issued 20 years ago by the University of Colorado's Condon Commission.

Copyright 1989 by Antonio Huneus

J. Antonio Huneus is a freelance science writer who has written frequently for publications in North and South America.



AP
FROM QUEENS TO USSR? UFO researchers Michael Luckman, left, and Bill Knell on Oct. 11 stand at the spot in Kissena Park, Queens where they say a UFO touched down seven months previously. They believe the recent Soviet landing reported in Tass could have preceded a second UFO landing in Queens.

TIMES & WORLD-NEWS, Roanoke, VA - March 25, 1990 CR: D. Gordon

Author delves into an unnerving phenomena

Reviewed by JIM CHRISS

REPORT ON COMMUNION.
By Ed Conroy. Morrow. \$19.95.

In late 1985 novelist Whitley Strieber had a strange experience — his quiet house in upstate New York was transformed into a personal house of horrors through a series of nighttime visitations by what he thought were beings from another planet.

Later, on February 10, 1987, the now-famous book "Communion" hit the stands. In that book Strieber recounted the horrifying and puzzling visitor experiences that had continually plagued him.

A year later came "Transformation," a volume that allowed Strieber to articulate his thoughts more fully concerning his "abduction" experiences and possible explanations for the mind-numbing events of the last few years.

Now, journalist and free-lance writer Ed Conroy has taken on the herculean task of attempting to investigate and verify Strieber's sensational allegations.

Conroy is well up to the task of piecing together Strieber's past. He displays a journalistic flair for taking note of and reporting upon even the smallest details of Strieber's life.

Conroy, in an attempt to establish a baseline profile of Strieber's character, traces his development as a child growing up in San Antonio and on through his adult life. He spends a good deal of time in this endeavor — 52 of the book's 427 pages, to be exact — but Conroy, himself a native and resident of San Antonio, makes the effort pay off, giving the reader some good "inside" clues into just exactly what kind of person Whitley Strieber is.

The book then veers into some fascinating speculation concerning the parallels between ancient Irish folklore — especially tales of "little green men," leprechauns and the "Fair Faith" — and the abduction experiences Strieber purported to have experienced.

Conroy's analysis follows Jacques Vallee's similar line of thought in "Passport to Magonia: From Folklore to Flying Saucers."

Also, since Strieber was concerned early on with his state of mental health, Conroy throws in suggestions concerning the possible interconnections between the "visitor" experience and its analysis via Jungian psychoanalysis. This all makes for a wonderfully engrossing, satisfying piece of intelligent speculation concerning Strieber's "visitors."

Conroy wraps up the book with a stunning revelation of his own: Apparently during his investigation of Whitley Strieber, Conroy himself began having some strange and inexplicable experiences. Foremost of these were weird helicopter sightings, helicopters that paid an inordinate amount of attention to him and which seemingly followed him everywhere. They were especially aggressive in that they tended to buzz by at alarmingly low altitudes, sometimes directing a searchlight toward him, even in broad daylight. Yes, he even has witnesses for these bizarre events.

It should become obvious at this point that Conroy realized full well that the inclusion of these reve-

lations in the book's epilogue would serve to seriously undermine the legitimacy of his study in the minds of many readers.

The book takes on a nearly instantaneous transformation, changing from an "independent" investigation one moment into an obviously biased, certainly no independent investigation the next. The reader could easily conclude that the investigator became "contaminated" by the subject matter, that he became too involved to be able to retain any semblance of impracticality whatsoever.

Conroy grappled for months over this question, whether or not he should report his own experiences, especially in light of the consequences which would be sure to follow. I know, because while vacationing in Texas over the Christmas holidays I had an opportunity to visit with Conroy at his home in San Antonio.

Conroy and his girlfriend, Dora Ruffner, welcomed me into their home. For what it's worth regarding

my own observation of Conroy and our three-hour talk, I found no reason to disbelieve him or to be incredulous toward his work on the book. He struck me as being a consummate professional in every sense of the word.

Upon leaving I couldn't help sense in his eyes the same wonderment I felt while reading the book. Something strange, odd, maybe even glorious had touched his life.

Conroy's book will probably attract no new converts, and it could in fact unnervify a few people. Conroy is trying to make sense of an extremely perplexing, not-easily-defined phenomena that has captured the attention of the world since at least the late '40s, and — if one considers the implications of our ancient bits of knowledge which are imbedded in what we now call folklore — possibly since the beginning of time.

Jim Chriss is a graduate student in sociology at Virginia Tech. He is from Corpus Christi.



STAR-PHOENIX, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada - Nov. 19, 1989

Alberta town still waiting for UFOs

By Gwen Dambrosky
of the Canadian Press

ST. PAUL, Alta. (CP) — You've had a long, exhausting night scanning the landscape stretched out below your silent, silvery craft.

One of your buddies is rubbing the sleep out of his three bleary eyes; another just wants to get out and stretch his pods.

As the humans say, it's Miller Time, time to kick back and relax. But where on earth can a bone-weary alien go?

Come on down to the Republic of St. Paul, also known as Stargate Alpha: "the world's first UFO landing pad."

Built in 1967 to commemorate Canada's Centennial, the funnel-shaped cement pad stands as a proud green-and-white beacon to extraterrestrial tourists.

Back in '81, the citizens of St. Paul, a small farm town (pop. 5,200) about 120 kilometres northeast of Edmonton, declared the pad an independent republic "as a symbol of our faith that mankind will maintain the outer universe free from national wars and strife."

Then they sold plots on Mars to raise money for pee wee baseball.

The landing pad, located on Main Street across from John Boy's fast food restaurant, is the town's official symbol. It's depicted on flags, on the town pin and on souvenir spoons that sell for \$6.99.

It has been visited by premiers and native leaders and cabinet ministers. Don Mazankowski may be Canada's deputy prime minister, but the people of St. Paul know his real distinction: Maz used to be the republic's ambassador to Canada. It was his way, as the area's MP, of going along with the gag.

The 14 steps leading to the top of the pad — the surface is about the size of a golf green — have also been scaled by Queen Elizabeth and Mother Teresa. Delivered to the landing pad in a cavalcade of jeeps, the tiny nun reassured a cheering crowd that "if there is sickness in outer space, we would go there too."

But to the town's collective chagrin, not one single alien has stepped on to the Republic of St. Paul.

That's especially irksome considering the recent spate of reported sightings in the Soviet Union. In one incident, children were said to have been zapped by a shiny-eyed visitor; in another, giant pin-headed creatures strolled in a park.

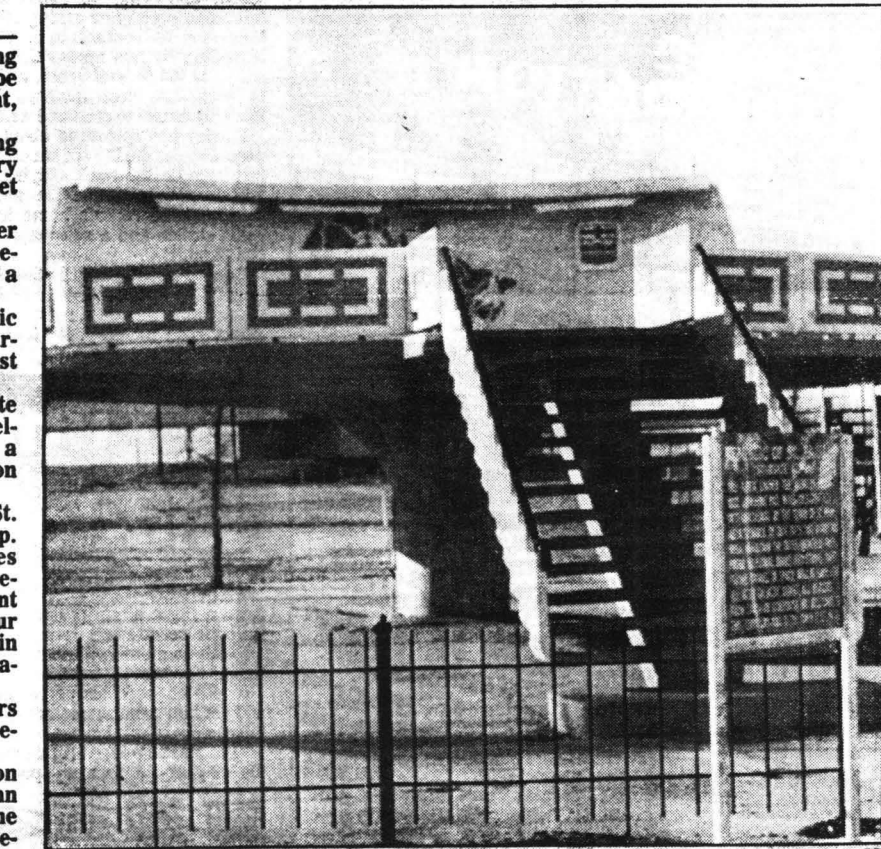
Clare Gauvreau, editor of the weekly St. Paul Journal, is particularly miffed that a reporter from Pravda got to interview one of the aliens.

"I wish they'd land here," she complains. "It would give me something for the front page this week."

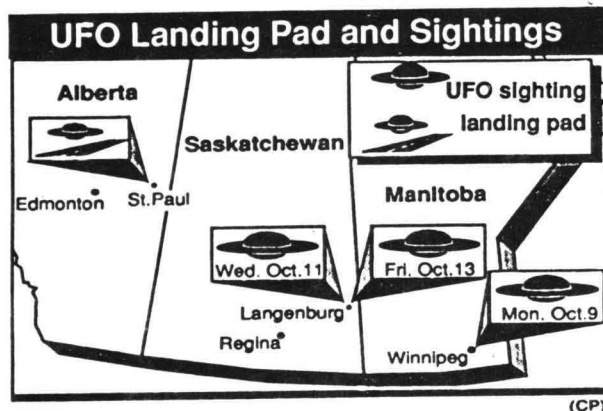
But it's just a matter of time, Gauvreau thinks. "We're actually expecting them any day now."

There were reports in October that school children and farmers in Saskatchewan had spotted UFOs. Travel agent Lorne Assheton-Smith thinks maybe they were aiming for St. Paul and just over-shot the target.

But as the president of St. Paul's chamber of commerce, Larry Langager, sadly admits, one of the reasons for the inter-



Stargate Alpha: the world's first UFO landing pad in St. Paul, Alta.



galactic snub may be that the landing pad has fallen into disrepair.

"I think people here tend to take it for granted," he says. "The community hasn't done enough to promote the existence of it. There are probably some people who are even a little bit embarrassed by it all."

Sure, there's a Galaxy Motel and a couple of spaceship rides in the mall. And the caddy shack at the town golf course is shaped like a rocket ship.

But the dual "eternal flames" atop poles near the pad have been snuffed while a utility company works in the area. The only sign of life on the pad is a trail of pistachio shells, eerily reminiscent of the scene in E.T.: The Extraterrestrial, where the alien is lured into a house by a line of Reese's Pieces candies.

At one time, says former mayor Jules Van Brabant, visitors could pop a quarter into a slot and spooky music would fill the air around the pad.

"We had some pretty weird sounds coming out of that thing,"

he whispers melodramatically. "But the neighbors complained so much that we had to take it off."

Perhaps the people of St. Paul have forgotten the words inscribed on the landing pad's plaque — words that remind us, as we prepare to cruise the universe, that we must never forget our own world's shortcomings.

"If we fail to conquer disease and pestilence on Earth but instead transmit them to other planets, we shall never be welcome," it points out.

"If we fail to travel Earth without destroying the environment, how shall we ever travel the universe safely? If we cannot develop international goodwill among all men, how shall we ever develop intergalactic goodwill among all beings?"

Mayor Paul Langevin isn't so sure aliens have been avoiding St. Paul. One night many years ago, he says, all the dogs in town started howling at once and demanded to be let into their homes. It may have been a sign that aliens were in the vicinity.

So red

I ALSO saw the huge red fireball over Kegworth through my lounge window on February 22 at about 10pm.

Three more people travelling from Plumtree to Kegworth by car saw the red ball, too.

Never had I seen anything so red in my life. What ever it was, it took my breath away.

Listening to Dennis McCarthy on Radio Nottingham on Friday afternoon, I heard him in conversation with a man from Newark about UFOs.

I had not seen any report in the papers, on television or radio, so I phoned in.

Alas, the lady I spoke to did not seem interested. That's the trouble with folk. They never believe you. But they do now.

URSULA WOOLLEY
Beech Avenue,
Kegworth.

Escape?

A COUPLE who wish to remain anonymous — and, no, they hadn't been at the beer — saw what they swear was a UFO over Aylesbury's young offenders institution in Birtton Road.

It was early evening, and the pair from Wendover were coming back from Milton Keynes when they spotted the phenomenon.

About the size of a football, it was an emerald green light which travelled horizontally and then dipped down towards the outskirts of Aylesbury, and then vanished.

It was all over in three seconds, and Mrs. X who had never seen anything like it, at first thought it was a shooting star. But it left no trail. One minute it was there — the next gone.

So if any of the staff at the Aylesbury jug hear one of their young miscreants whispering: "Beam me up Scotty", they had better take it seriously.

OBSERVER, Ossett, England - Sept. 15, 1989

Ossett is a prime site for alien 'dumbbells'

UFO CONFERENCE organisers claim to have sensational evidence which finally proves the existence of alien spacecraft.

They claim to have information and pictures which prove an alien spaceship was shot down by an airforce pilot in South Africa earlier this year. They say the inhabitants of the craft have been taken to the USA where they remain in custody at the insistence of the government.

The organisers of the conference, which will bring some of the world's leading UFO experts to Ossett Town Hall next weekend, claim this "world exclusive" will finally prove the existence of alien crafts and also an attempted cover up by world governments.

A spokesman for the Yorkshire UFO Society who are involved in organising the event said: "The information we have is sensational and nobody has ever done anything like this before. We have proof positive that alien spacecraft actually exist — its very exciting."

Allens

Another "first" for the conference will be the showing of "A Strange Harvest" — a film by American UFOlogist Linda Moulton-Howe which presents evidence on animal abduction and mutilation by aliens.

According to the film, animal organs have been removed by using laser type

equipment and the conclusion is that "nothing in this world" could have performed the operations.

Evidence will also be presented on the mysterious circles which appear in fields some of which have in the past been proved the work of UFO hoaxers.

And conference speakers will also prove the existence of a Ministry of Defence department called DSA which has been set up to deal specifically with UFO information.

Dumbbells

According to the Yorkshire UFO spokesman, Ossett is a prime site for flying saucers, cigars and "dumbbells", although the number of sightings have tailed off in recent months.

"I have certainly seen UFOs around Ossett but the hot weather this Summer dulls the air and makes sightings more difficult. If people spent less time looking at the pavement beneath them instead of the skies above them there would be far more sightings," he said.

"I have seen UFO which was so large it obscured the Plough constellation from sight. It was like a huge shadow moving slowly across the sky. The same thing has since been witnessed by other people across Yorkshire."

UFO experts at the conference next Saturday (September 23) will include Mr Anthony Dodd an expert in alien abductions and UFO expert Ralph Noyes. The conference starts at 12.30pm and goes on until 6pm.

CR: T. Good

Beyond belief

All over the world eyes are turning to the skies as UFO reports reach a new peak. And, last year, nowhere were there more reports than over Britain.

'Britain is experiencing a huge wave of sightings,' says Tim Good, author of *The UFO Report 1990*.

Investigators are particularly fascinated by the sea-side town of Southend in Essex, which is fast emerging as the UFO capital of the world. In one year there have been 1400 UFO

there has been a cover-up by governments worldwide to avert panic but, he says, secretly, intelligence agencies are taking a great interest. 'Governments fear panic followed by mass depression. But I think most people would find a UFO landing extremely exciting.'

To date, the most amazing sighting was in Voronezh, Russia, last autumn. The Soviet newspaper *Tass* described 12ft aliens emerging from a spaceship and 'zapping' a boy. The story has been challenged, but UFOlogists are treating it seriously.

From his flat in Beckenham, south-east London, Tim watches the skies, cameras permanently at the ready. 'It's my ambition to see an alien spacecraft close up. If I was invited aboard, I'd take the risk and go. It would be too good an opportunity to miss.'

From Tim's files, we have compiled a list of important British sightings last year (see panel, right). They are the most reliable examples — all corroborated by more than one witness — and show increasing numbers of UFOs in our skies.

And they raise the mystifying question: Why us?

John Dale

The UFO Report 1990 by Tim Good (Sidgwick & Jackson, £7.99 paperback)

The last 12 months have witnessed an incredible increase in UFO sightings. Britain is fast becoming the UFO centre of the world



Tim Good suggests a UFO cover-up

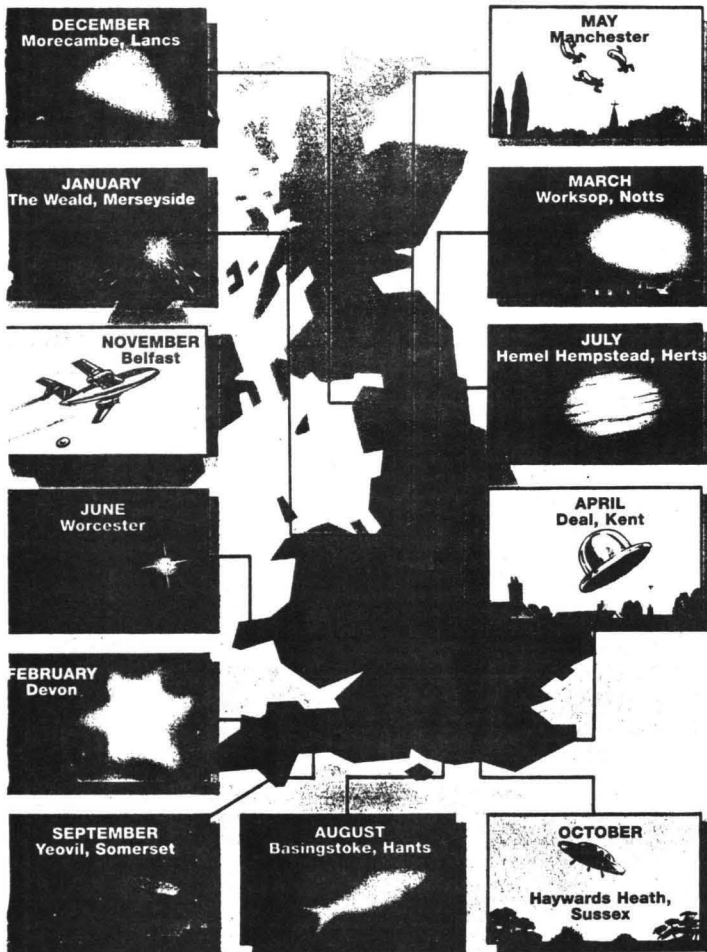
reports from East Anglia alone — most in Southend.

Typically, witnesses describe massive lights which drop suddenly out of the sky and speed across the Thames Estuary. They're often contained within a rounded, saucer-shaped outline and travel faster than Concorde.

'I'm convinced a proportion are definitely extra-terrestrial,' says Tim.

He believes the occupants are of two types. One kind are grey, with large heads and eyes and tiny ears, noses and mouths. The others are similar to us, but have advanced technology, telepathic powers and the ability to manipulate time and space.

However, Tim maintains



The Fishers: 'no one can explain'

SIGHTED A 'CHANDELIER' IN THE SKY

Jim Fisher, of Swindon in Wiltshire, glanced out of the window one night and saw a UFO. 'It looked like a chandelier hanging in the sky, something full of red and green lights. I fetched my binoculars and studied it further. I wondered if I was dreaming.'

Mr Fisher, 67 and retired, called his wife Doris. Without telling her what he'd seen, he handed her the binoculars. 'I see it — yes, it's like a chandelier,' she said. The couple watched for about half an hour.

'It couldn't have been an aircraft because it was motionless,' says Mr Fisher. 'If it had been a balloon it would have drifted away. I just don't know what it was.'

'I got calls from other witnesses saying they'd seen the same thing. But no one — not even the police — can explain what it was.'

Illustration: Bill Le Fever

TOP SECRET

UFO REPORT 1990

SIGHTED

A ROUND SAUCER WITH WINDOWS

Morning break at St Joseph's Roman Catholic School, Haywards Heath, Sussex, in October 1989. The children are playing outside. Suddenly they stop and all eyes turn skywards. Hovering above them is a greyish-peach coloured craft with legs dangling below it. The pupils cluster around their teachers.

Of all recent UFO sightings, this is probably the most corroborated. Teachers Sue Weller, Jo

Ferris and Mary Wells all saw it. Their testimony is backed up by dozens of pupils who have been asked by the teachers to draw the object they saw. Most drawings are very similar.

'It was a round saucer with windows all around and dangly things hanging out of the bottom,' said Melissa Morrison, 10.

Enquiries made at nearby Gatwick Airport to see if anything unusual has registered on radar screens reveal nothing.

The mystery remains...

St Joseph's pupils' UFO drawings



British UFO record 1989

JANUARY
EBBW VALE Many see 'mass of lights' above mountain.
HARLOW White lights followed by spinning object.
MERSEYSIDE Turquoise fireball explodes.

FEBRUARY
STROUD Dark object above A46.
DEVON 'Jellyfish' above M5.
SWINDON 'Chandelier' object.

MARCH
WORKSOP 40ft circular craft.
GRAYS, ESSEX Hovering white light seen by ex-pilot.

APRIL
CANVEY ISLAND Transparent oval object, tall as five houses.
WATFORD Object over M25.
STAFFORD Large, motionless light. Police witness.

MAY
MANCHESTER Flashing lights.
SOUTHEND Bright oval object.
BIGGLESWADE White object.

JUNE
WORCESTER White star making orange flashes.
NORTH WARWICKS Motionless object with blinding light.

JULY
BURNMOUTH Oval craft with lights.

JULY
ILFORD Orange objects.
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD Huge, oval white light with green streaks.

AUGUST
BASINGSTOKE Big silver object.
CLACTON Object 30 yards wide, humming, with lights.

SEPTEMBER
YORK Cigar-shaped object.
BASILDON Spherical craft, with ring of coloured lights.

OCTOBER
YEovil Streaking green light.
NOTTS Mushroom-shaped object and wheel-shaped craft.

NOVEMBER
MILTON KEYNES Fat cigar with lights 'buzzes' car.
SUSSEX Downs Pear-shaped object crashes and explodes, but no wreckage found.

DECEMBER
HAYWARDS HEATH Saucer with windows and legs.
DORSET Glowing oblong craft.

JANUARY
AMERSHAM Winged craft.
MANCHESTER Huge triangular craft nearly halts traffic on M67.

FEBRUARY
ESSEX Saucer with lights.
KEIGHLEY Pale object.

MARCH
WREXHAM Strange lights.
BELFAST Object tails a British Midland airliner, then explodes.

APRIL
GWENT Disc-shaped silver craft.
CANTERBURY V-shaped flashing lights.

MAY
TORQUAY Huge fluorescent tube, pulsating red and hovering.

JUNE
DECEMBER SOUTH HUMBERSIDE Cluster of bright lights follows car.

JULY
MORECAMBE Triangular lights with dome, silent and hovering.

Photos: Mike Chaffy/Colin Payne

GRIMSBY EVENING TELEGRAPH, South Humberside, England - Feb. 8, 1990 CR: T. Good

UFO sighting over Humber

A STRANGE glowing object was spotted over the Humber today by a sharp-eyed Cleethorpes man.

Just after 4am he said

he saw a reddish-purple disc over the river heading northwards.

The man, who declined to be named, told the Evening Telegraph: 'It

didn't make any noise, it slowed down, stopped and then shot off up the river.

'I have no idea at all what it was. I want to know if it was seen by

anyone else.' But Humber Coastguard said they had received no sightings of any objects along the river at that time.

HERALD, Glasgow, Scotland - March 17, 1990 CR: T. Good

Riddle of glasnost and the UFOs

MOSCOW, Friday. THOSE Creatures from Outer Space, regularly reported to invade Russia, are back — this time in Lenin's home town.

And some experts are starting to blame Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reform campaign.

People are becoming receptive to Strange Phenomena in the new era of glasnost (openness).

Nationally fascinated by obscure events, the Soviet Union frequently reports sightings of UFOs but *Tass* news agency broke fresh ground today by reporting the arrival of a "riverboat from space" over the Volga

River town of Ulyanovsk where state founder Vladimir Lenin was born. Correspondent Nikolai Milov reported from Ulyanovsk that there had been few UFO buffs in the city until last Tuesday night.

That was when Tatyana Bednyakova "looked out of her window at the night sky and could hardly believe her eyes," the reporter for the news agency said.

Bednyakova called two neighbours and they all saw an object radiating coloured lights. The object then illuminated from the inside, turning into "something like a river vessel with windows."

The *Tass* correspondent said that about two weeks earlier a group of local policemen "saw something very similar".

Explaining the phenomenon, one Western diplomat said: "Much of it has to do with the tremendous upsurge in religion over the past few years. Russians are by nature deeply religious people and are now desperately looking for something to believe in."

Religious belief was heavily discouraged during the rule of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin and only really started to recover after Gorbachev came to power.—Reuter.

UFO sighted at Drws y Nant—or was it a plane?

A Bala man is anxious to find someone else who might have seen a large object flying low and fast between Rhydymain and Dolgellau at 8.45pm last Thursday evening.

Father of four Mr Hedd-wyn Jones aged 46 of 69 Bro Eryl, Bala, never before believed in Unidentified Flying Objects.

But he is not so sure now after his experience last Thursday on the Dolgellau to Bala road at Drws y Nant.

"I was travelling back from Aberystwyth to Dolgellau when I saw a triangular shaped object with green and white lights on it in a field near Rhydymain" said the consultant chiropodist.

"I first thought that someone had put coloured lights on a tree because it was near Christmas" he said.

"But the lights were very straight and when I stopped the car between the Drws y Nant traffic lights and the old Creamery the lights were still there and not moving.

"It was about as tall as two council houses some 35ft high.

"I turned the car engine off and then suddenly it flew away very fast with just the white lights on it now. It went towards Dolgellau and over the mountains to the east of the town" he said.

Mr Jones thinks that it could well have been an

aircraft of some kind about the size of a Hercules transporter plane.

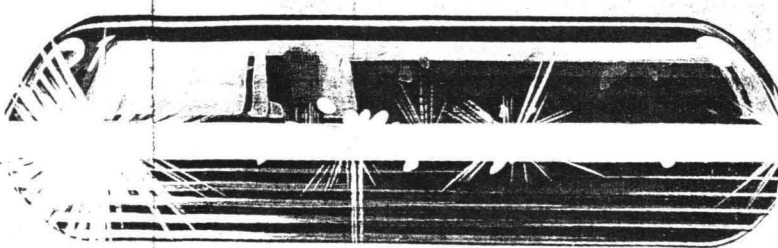
"I was on my own unfortunately and there were no other cars about otherwise I would have stopped them" he said.

Mr Jones was persuaded by his wife not to call the police "In case they thought I was some kind of crank" he said.

"I don't believe in flying saucers or anything like that but I would love to meet someone who saw what I did that night" he said.

Mr Jones was told that someone living in the Trawsfynydd area had seen something in the sky that night. "I wish I could get in touch with that person" he said.

LEADER-POST, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada - Nov. 4, 1989



L-P artist Gail Duesterbeck re-creates the UFO seen outside Rose Neumeier's window Friday, Oct.13

A close encounter at Langenburg?

By George Bentley
of Weekender

LANGENBURG — When Herman Fogen opted for a career in law enforcement more than two decades ago, it seemed a down-to-earth decision.

And it's likely he never thought his jurisdiction might reach into outer space.

But that's what's happened to this tall, personable man with the ready smile.

Life has been anything but boring in recent weeks for Sgt. Fogen of the Langenburg detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The reason is this pretty and normally peaceful farming town, which sits astride the Yellowhead Highway in eastern Saskatchewan, has been home to something of a UFO outbreak.

If that wasn't enough to contend with, people with similar sightings from across Saskatchewan and even Manitoba have decided Fogen should hear their stories, as well.

Through it all, he's managed to maintain his sense of humor.

The first incident, Oct. 11, took place in a park right across the street from Fogen's office. "Maybe they came to see us and we weren't

here," he quips, cracking a wry smile.

UFOs and Langenburg, a community of 1,200, have had something of a relationship going for a number of years.

The first and most notable encounter came on Labor Day, 1974, when Edwin Fuhr, an area-farmer, came across a strange object in the rape crop he was swathing. His initial thought was that it looked like a "tin duck blind that you see in the outdoor sportsmen's magazine," he told The Leader-Post, a few days later.

Thinking it was some sort of practical joke, he got down off his swather to scare anyone who was hiding inside it. As he approached, he saw something wasn't quite right. The grass around the object was moving and the thing itself was rotating. He looked around and saw five more "stainless steel" things hovering about a foot off the ground. Frozen in his tracks, he watched as they took off trailing grey vapor behind them.

The crop was still flattened the next day when the RCMP arrived to investigate. It remained that way for several more weeks as reporters, photographers and UFO re-

searchers came out to have a look at Fuhr's field.

The incident was never explained. Fogen never planned on doing similar investigations. "I've never been involved in one before, but I always thought it'd be fun," he says.

His closest brush with UFOs before this, came while he was working in southern Saskatchewan. "When I was stationed down at Bengough between 1977 and 1980, I heard about an incident not far from there in 1972, where there was supposed to be three burn marks," he says.

This time, he just sort of bumped into the UFOs.

He was at a local farm checking out something else when he heard the story of an incident that took place Oct. 13. He took a report, which the RCMP forward to the National Research Council, and figured this was an isolated case.

"The next day, I heard the kids talking about something that happened in Centennial Park Oct. 11," says Fogen.

That story made the local newspaper and then yet a third person came forward with a separate story of his own.

The provincial media picked up

the newspaper story and the phone began ringing with calls from around the southern part of Saskatchewan.

From Minton, not far from the Montana border, a woman called to talk about a cluster of lights, sometimes three, sometimes five, that she saw Oct. 18. As she was watching them, a plane came along and the lights winked out. When the plane left, the lights came back.

"Then at 11:25 p.m. last night (Oct. 25), we got a call from Saltcoats. A man saw an orange, cone-shaped light moving east to west. Then a few minutes later, it arced up from the ground and back down. It wasn't a flare, though, he's sure," says Fogen, leafing through a growing stack of reports.

Almost as he finished that sentence, one of the other officers walked in to tell him the police department in Gilbert Plains, across the border in Manitoba, has a report of their own and wants to compare notes.

The Gilbert Plains report, filed by the wife of a part-time constable in that community, says the woman was walking home from the skating rink with her daughter at about 7:45 p.m., Manitoba time, when something strange happened, says Jim Heron of the Gilbert Plains force.

They looked up to see a fairly big craft, with a set of lights in the front and in the back, both blinking red and flying with no noise at the height of two grain elevators.

"It was right above her. She was quite stunned by the whole thing," says Heron.

"As long as the lights weren't red and blue (police colors)," cracks Fogen, eliciting laughter from the other end of the phone.

They compare sightings a little further and promise to keep in touch in case anything else happens.

For Fogen, it's one more for the pile.

Any place else but Langenburg and this report might be written off. "I've been here only two years but I suspect about 90 per cent of the people around here are believers because of what happened here in 1974," says Fogen.

For his part, he isn't sure what the answer is to the question of the UFOs. But he's not closing any doors just yet. "It's an awfully big universe so anything's possible. And who's to say they wouldn't want to check out some real estate down here," says Fogen.

"Frankly, I'd like to see one myself so I can say, 'Yeah, I saw one.'" (continued on page 14)

Strange lights over the park

Case #1
Date: Wed., Oct 11, 1989
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Centennial Park, in Langenburg

It's two days after Thanksgiving and a group of about a half-dozen youngsters are honing their skateboarding skills along a strip of sidewalk outside the town pool.

The sky is dark but the streetlights manage to kick off enough light to illuminate the sidewalk and the red, white and blue sections of the fence around the outdoor pool.

The local Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment is just across the street, but there's no one there at the time.

It was just about 7 p.m. when they noticed a strange light off to the east, moving rapidly toward the town, says 13-year-old Brad Schmidt.

"We were just talking about flying saucers and then I looked up and I saw one," says Schmidt.

The boys still weren't sure what it was they were looking at, says Todd Weinheimer, 13.

"We just said it was a shooting star and then we thought it was a plane. But as it got close, you could tell what it was," says Weinheimer.

It was then that someone yelled, "No, it's a spaceship."

The group waved their skateboards at it, to attract its attention.

That seemed to work as the mys-

terious lights moved toward the park and hovered there about 400 feet from the group at a height of between 100 and 200 feet above the ground.

The boys dove for cover. From where they were, though, they got a good look at whatever it was, they say.

While their descriptions don't match exactly, there are some common threads to them, like the size. All describe it as being bigger than an average car.

"It was like two dishes put together, a saucer," says Weinheimer. "There was a whole bunch of lights, blue, red, orange, yellow and white."

Twelve-year-old Paul Goddard tells a similar story, describing it as a "circle with red, blue and green lights around it, with a blue one that went back and forth through the middle of the bottom."

As abruptly as it had arrived, it moved off over nearby Parkside School, paused for a moment and then took off to the west, coming to a halt over the town's grain elevators.

All of this without a sound, except for a slight gust of wind, says Schmidt.

It was then someone ran over to the school to tell one of the teachers about what was happening.

This is where Bob Markham and Mark MacMurchy come into the story.

"There was a big bang on the backdoors here and it was these kids that had come over from the park. Mark went out first and I stayed in the gym and he came back in after being out there for five minutes and said to me, 'Yeah, there's something out there,'" says Markham.

What he saw when he went out was a set of lights about 100 feet above the elevator, but beyond them in the distance. "There was a very bright light on top, almost like a strobe light, a silver light. We weren't close enough to see any distinct shapes but it flashed, flashed, flashed."

"It would blink for a while, then it would quit and then it would start up again," says Markham.

From their vantage point, they were also able to see a constant red light on the bottom.

The two things that struck both of them as strange, though, were the speed of the object — "if it was

moving, it was going pretty darn slow" — and also the fact it made no noise. "It was close enough that if there had have been an engine involved like a plane, helicopter or whatever, there'd have been sound. A helicopter you can hear coming from Russell, 25 miles away, but there was no sound, absolutely no sound," says Markham.

The object remained above the elevators for about 10 to 15 minutes before heading off to the west, toward Churchbridge.

The events left everyone involved with a lot of unanswered questions.

MacMurchy, for one, has never considered himself a believer in UFOs, he says.

"Does this change my mind? To some extent it does. I don't really know what it was, so I can't say definitely yes, but there really was something there," says MacMurchy.

Markham, on the other hand, has always been convinced there is something out there. "But I've never had any proof to suggest either way. What we saw wouldn't have made me a believer, if that is all I had heard or seen."

"But the Friday of that week, Rose Neumeier, the one that had the daytime sighting, phoned me. That really convinced me that there is something going on here," he says.

For the youngsters, it's an event they won't likely ever forget.

"I believe in them but I didn't think I'd ever see one," says Weinheimer, adding he'd like to see one again.

It's an opportunity they realize may never come again.

"I wish I hadn't been so scared, I'd like to have remembered more," sighs Schmidt.

Object hovers over garage

Case #2
Date: Fri., Oct. 13, 1989
Time: 10:20 a.m.
Place: Gabriel and Rose Neumeier farm, 11 kilometers southwest of Langenburg

Rose Neumeier was in the kitchen of her comfortable farm home, this Friday morning talking to a friend on the telephone. Out the window to the north, she could see the garage, barn and cattle corral.

Suddenly, a bright flash of light struck her eyes and lit up the whole kitchen. Her first thought may have been it was the glare from the windshield of a car travelling down the grid road south of the farm. But looking north across the farm, there was no way she could have seen that.

She looked out her window and there, hovering above the garage, was an oblong-shaped silver object.

A sketch she drew later resembled two pie plates thrust together.

The light she'd seen was coming from a bright silver band around its middle. The glare was either being emitted by the band or the result of sunlight being reflected off the shiny surface. Neumeier had no way of knowing which.

The object hung, above the garage, just a matter of feet away from the weathered back step of the house.

Strangely, though, it emitted no sound. The family dog hadn't stirred and the cattle walked leisurely around their corral oblivious to the events unfolding near them.

The object was large, stretching the entire 28 to 30-foot length of the garage.

As she watched, it moved silently off to the north, paused and then came back to sit over the barn. Still

the cattle showed no signs of noticing it, despite the fact it was almost right over their heads.

After a few seconds, it took off and was out of sight almost in an instant. The whole incident had lasted about two minutes, she later estimated for police.

While she told her friend about the incident, Neumeier decided to keep the story quiet.

Events, though, were about to thrust her into the limelight.

That afternoon about 4:30 p.m., RCMP Sgt. Herman Fogen of the Langenburg detachment drove into the Neumeier farm to see if they had any information about a report filed earlier in the day by their neighbors about possible poachers hunting in the area.

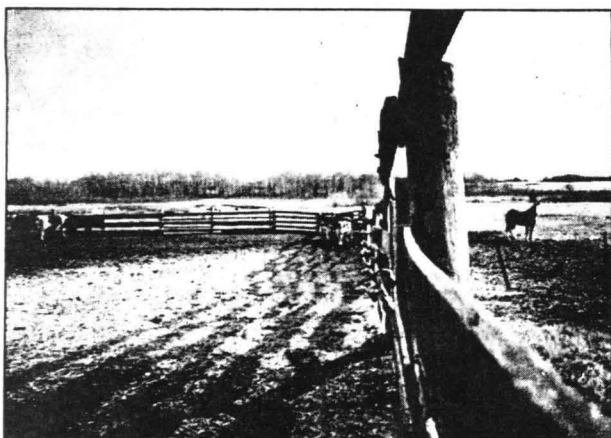
"I said I was there to talk about the incident that happened earlier in the day," says Fogen.

"She said, 'Who told you?' I said, 'Willie (the neighbor) reported shots in the northeast pasture.' She said, 'Oh, I thought you were here to talk about the UFO,'" he says.

With that, she told him the story of her strange incident earlier that Friday the 13th.

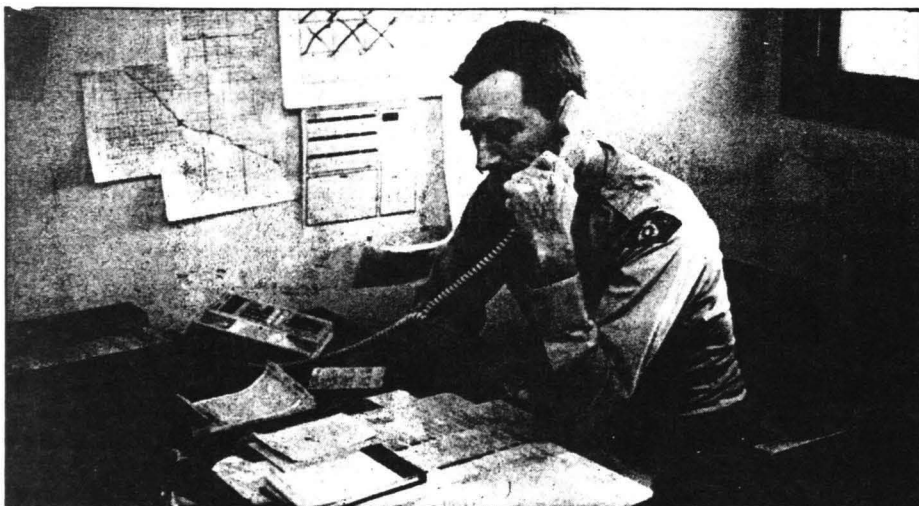
"Of all the farms in this area, why did they pick on pick on Neumeiers?" asks Fogen. Their farm is somewhat isolated. It sits at the bottom of a dip in the countryside. There is no way to see any of the neighboring farms from their home. Driving away from their place, their farm disappears from view after only a few seconds because of the rolling landscape.

The fact that the object disturbed neither the dog nor the cattle is also interesting. When we drove up to the farm, the cattle became extremely spooked and the dog regarded our arrival with keen interest.



Spooked cattle at the Neumeier farm

More than one sighting



Sgt. Herman Fogen of the RCMP

Case #3
Date: Beginning Wed., Oct. 18, 1989
Time: Variable
Place: Along Highway #8 between Langenburg and Esterhazy

It was just after suppertime as insurance agent Colin Rosin was driving his nine-year-old daughter to her music lessons in Esterhazy. The pair was chatting and the topic of conversation this night was UFOs.

The girl was doing most of the talking. The recent sighting by a group of boys over Langenburg, the week before, had been front-page news in that day's Four-Town Journal, the local weekly newspaper.

Heading down Highway 8, they were almost at the intersection with a secondary paved road that leads to the International Minerals and Chemicals Potash mine and, eventually, to Highway 80 which heads south from Churchbridge.

"She was more talking to me about them (UFOs), than I was talking to her. I had spotted something out of the right passenger window out to the southwest and was just kind of wondering what it was," says Rosin.

He thought it might have been a plane or something else but he pointed out what he was watching to her, as a way of answering some of her questions about them, he says.

But she wasn't pointing to the west, she was pointing straight up.

"I stopped my car, got out and looked up. It wasn't any plane," says Rosin. Surprisingly, neither one of them was frightened, he says.

"There was something just coasting across the sky over top of my car that had two beautiful blue flashing lights, two red flashing lights and what I think was sort of yellowish or whitish lights. Those gave you the same impression as if you had those lights recessed into your ceiling in a house," says Rosin.

The object floated above them with absolutely no noise.

His daughter, excited by the sight, wanted some sort of confirmation from him that what they saw was actually a UFO, a commitment he didn't give right away, he says.

Rosin was busy dealing with his own feelings of awe about that time. "I was just sort of wondering what it was, wishing I had my camera, a decent camera."

"As luck would have it, when I

think of it now, I actually did have my camera with me but it's something you just don't think about right when you're looking like that, at something that close," he says.

This isn't his first experience with unexplained things in the sky. When he was 15 or 16 years old, he spotted something else mysterious during the day time, northwest of the town of Bredenbury. "You could definitely see a oblong shape. It was sort of a greyish-silver type of color, maybe a grey-white if you want to call it that."

"You could also see it had what appeared to be flashing, sort of, in-sequence lights in the centre, that appeared to be windows. It also had an orange exhaust and made absolutely no sound at all," says Rosin.

He hadn't planned on making his latest sighting public, but fate intervened again. "I happened to mention it to a few people, but only real close friends. Somebody happened to have a close friend who works for CBC and I'm assuming that's where it sort of spread," he says.

If he had seen it in broad daylight or gotten a picture of the object, then things might have been different.

"But there's been some pretty weird things going on around Langenburg this last little while and I kind of makes you wonder," he says.

The wondering has continued, as have the sightings.

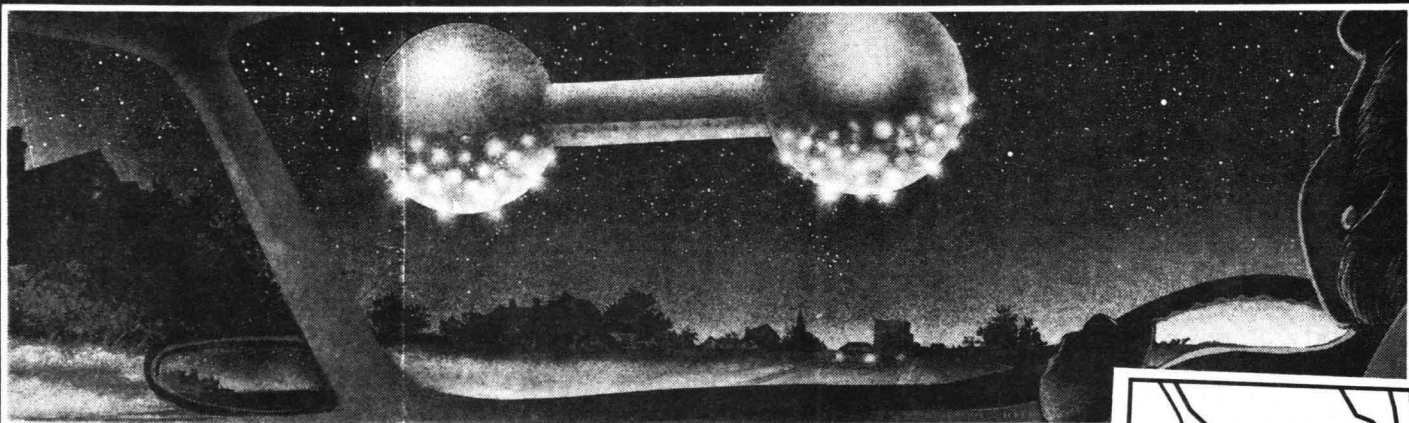
Both he and his daughter have been watching every night they could since then, with some success. Something of a pattern has developed. "I noticed, timewise, they appear between about 6:20 and shortly after 7 o'clock," he says. There is definitely something there, says Rosin. But, what it is, he's not sure.

The notoriety has also meant some of his customers have told him some of their own experiences. "I was at a customer's place this morning who said they saw something either last year or the year before," says Rosin.

What he'd like now are some answers.

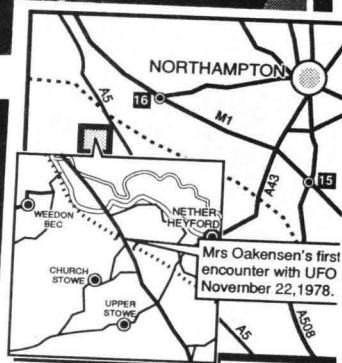
"I wonder what it could be. I'm kind of intrigued and wish I had the equipment and maybe the time and resources to be chasing around the country finding out what this kind of stuff really is," says Rosin.

Victims warn of a mind-blowing threat to Earth



CLOSE ENCOUNTER: What Elsie Oakensen saw the night an alien spacecraft swooped on her car

Drawing: KEN TAYLOR



HUNTED BY A UFO

Teacher Elsie fails 'examination' by an alien spaceship

By STEVE PURCELL

TEACHER Elsie Oakensen and her friend Rita Gould are two ordinary women... but they're all set to shock Britain's UFO-watchers.

For their true-life close encounters have convinced them that aliens are not only watching us — but HUNTING us.

The women's amazing stories are to be scrutinised by flying saucer experts at a special seminar later this week, and the evidence will be hard to dismiss.

Stalked

Elsie, 61, the wife of a police inspector, believes she was stalked, mind-probed... and then rejected by alien forces.

She was a few miles from home when she spotted two bright lights hovering over the A5 near Daventry, Northants.

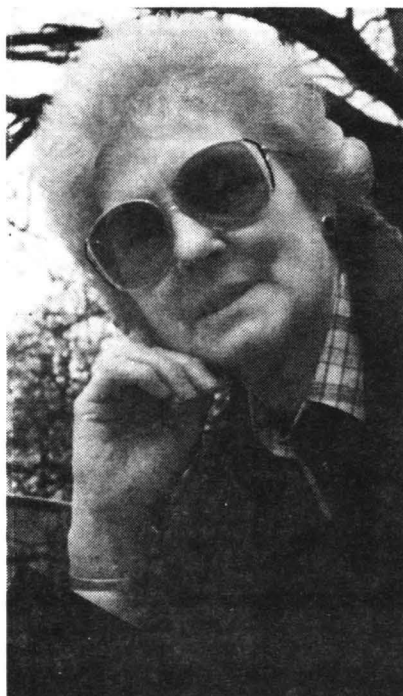
"At first I thought it was a low-flying aircraft," she says. "But as I drove underneath I could see it was a 50ft-wide, dumbbell-shaped object about 100ft up."

Moments later, as she drove down a lane near her home in Church Stowe, the car lost power.

"I had my foot right down on the accelerator but the car just stopped. There was complete blackness and I couldn't see the car or the road."

"Then brilliant white circles of light, about a yard in diameter, appeared from nowhere, flashing on and off around the car."

"When the last circle disappeared I was 100 yards down the road, driving normally. I hadn't



TESTED: Elsie was rejected Picture: BOB BARCLAY

started the car or put it into gear. It seemed to happen by remote control."

Elsie checked her watch. She'd LOST 15 minutes.

Once home, she saw two parallel white lines shoot into the sky above the spot where she had almost fallen prey.

Then she suffered an acute pain "like a band being tightened around my head."

Three investigators from nationally-known UFO organisations checked out Elsie's story. They discovered remarkable similarities between her experience and those

of other close encounter victims.

These included a sighting, at nearby Preston Capes, by four women just two hours after Elsie's experience.

Devoted

Elsie, now devoted to UFO research, is convinced she was tested by the aliens on that dark night in 1978, and that she failed that test.

● ELSIE and Rita will both speak at the BUFOR-Independent UFO Network two-weekend course at the Adult Education Centre, Ossett, West Yorks, on February 24 and March 3.

HUGE LIGHT SWOOPED ON RITA

WRITER Rita Gould was driving down an old Roman road when a UFO swooped on her.

"I'd seen a white light ahead and slowed as the light moved on to the road," she says.

Just as with Elsie Oakensen, the car seemed to stop by itself.

Disbelief

Passenger Clive Potter, stared in disbelief as the light approached. Suddenly, the UFO shot off.

"A man later reported seeing a white oval shape that night in the sky over the Fosse road near Brinklow, Warwicks, where our encounter happened," says 51-year-old Rita.

"Two other people reported seeing something strange in the sky, and a huge corn ring appeared overnight in the field near the road!"

BOROUGH TIMES, Barnet, England
Feb. 1, 1990 CR: T. Good
'It looked like fuzzy balls dancing around'

Woman claims she saw UFOs in Barnet sky

Report by JANE O'BRIEN

A WOMAN out walking her dog believed she saw UFOs circling the sky above New Barnet and Totteridge last week.

Corrina Bedford, 23, from Berkeley Crescent, East Barnet, will not accept the police view that what she saw was lights from Paul McCartney's Wembley concert.

She was out at about 10.25pm on Wednesday when she saw what appeared to be three clouds over New Barnet.

"Then I thought — clouds don't chase each other in a circle," she said.

She went inside to get boyfriend Dan Reynolds and friend David Copestake. Although David had had a few drinks, Corrina was sober, she said.

All of a sudden, instead of only three, they saw about 16 little pools of light below the clouds.

There were no beams coming from the ground, so

they quickly ruled out the possibility of floodlights.

And they were sure it was not an aeroplane or helicopter.

The lights went off towards Totteridge and Whetstone so they walked after them to try to find out more.

Standing on a green near Oakleigh Park train station they watched the weird patterns in the sky. Another person out walking a dog stood and watched them too, said Corrina.

"It just looked like little fuzzy balls dancing around. Every five seconds they met in the middle and then flew off and did their own thing and then came back again," said Corrina.

"At about 11.20pm they disappeared completely," she said.

A few other people out walking seemed to see the lights but did not acknowledge them.

"I came back feeling like I was just a pinpoint on the earth. I felt very privileged to see it," she said.

A spokesman from Barnet Police Station said there were no other sightings reported last week, but the previous week there was a similar call when the caller accepted the lights must have come from Wembley.

He said they would not take any action on the strength of one call.

"We believe them to be laser beams," he said.

A spokesman from Wembley arena box office said search lights coming from the arena could be seen in the sky for long distances if there was low cloud.

He said he could see them from his home in Pinner where they were even frightening some of the local cats.

But he added the Paul McCartney concert was scheduled to end at 10.30pm.

THE VISITOR, Morecambe/Heysham/Lancaster, England
Dec. 13, 1989 CR: T. Good

Mystery lights over Bay

TWO Morecambe residents have had a close encounter in the past month with some unusual aircraft, which they think are types of UFO.

Mr Keith Tassart, of Kings Crescent, Morecambe, said he saw some lights in the sky over the Bay when walking home one evening. When he took a closer look, it was triangular-shaped with a brightly-lit dome at the front. "I had my binoculars with me, so I could see it very clearly."

"There were lights down each wing too. When it took off it had a red light underneath. I would say it was no higher than 2,000 feet."

Mr Tassart said knew it wasn't any ordinary aircraft because it hovered for several minutes before taking off, and did not make a sound.

A similar incident was recorded by Clair Allen (16), of Ruskin Avenue, Bare, who spotted what she is sure was a UFO in the sky over the Bay about three weeks ago.

"All I could see was a lot of lights. They were flashing, as if they were hitting off something."

"It was very low, and was there for about half-an-hour. I was terrified."

EVENING ADVERTISER, Swindon, England
Jan. 22, 1990 CR: T. Good

Solve circles plea

People are being asked to help discover the truth behind one of the area's biggest mysteries — the cornfield circles.

A team of UFO spotters are to monitor the unexplained in the West country and the symmetrical circles are high on its list.

There is even a 24-hour hotline for the public to call to give information.

"We would like any information from the public to be passed on to us," said Bristol-based team leader Richard Tarr, 24. "If you see any circles get in touch straight away."

"There is some intelligent

thinking behind their creation, but it is not a human thinking. We don't know what it is, but that's what we're here for."

Mr Tarr said any information would be treated in strict confidence.

The team has advanced technology to help process sightings.

The circles are an annual phenomenon on the Wiltshire Downs, appearing at Silbury Hill, near Avebury.

Sightings should be reported on the hotline number (0756 752216) or to Richard Tarr on 0272 514089.

Photographer snaps UFO

By ALAN
CLEAVER

THIS fast moving object was captured on film by a photographer who was taking pictures in Amersham. It has baffled a top photographer and others who have failed to identify the craft.

Now the man who snapped the object, Nicholas Salmon of Chestnut Lane, Amersham, is appealing to Star readers to identify it.

Nicholas reported: "Much as I am reluctant to involve myself in such an emotive issue as that of the existence or otherwise of alien objects, the correspondence in your paper recently concerning the alleged sightings of UFOs in South Bucks has decided me to come forward with my own story.

"On a cloudless spring morning (9.15am on May 18 to be precise) I was taking photos for a book I am writing on Amersham...

"Putting the camera to my eye I was conscious of an object travelling at considerable speed flashing across my viewfinder on a course from right to left...Considering the speed of the object, I was amazed to find I had captured it on one shot."

Former president of the Royal Photographic Society, Dr Vernon Harrison, has examined the negative and concludes: "It seems definitely to represent an object — but what object? The photograph is certainly an interesting one and I don't think it is a hoax."

The speed and shape seems to rule out most known aircraft. If you have any ideas write to The Chiltern Star, Gomm Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 7DW.



This is an
enlargement
of the strange
craft seen
over Amersham

Have we been visited by creatures from space?

A NUMBER of UFO sightings have been reported in the Basildon and Laindon area during the past two weeks.

On Saturday 17 February, two people in Basildon spotted a saucer-shaped object the size of a rugby ball, with multi-coloured lights spinning around it.

They watched as the object hovered and manoeuvred very slowly before disappearing.

Identical descriptions were also received from witnesses in Colchester and Southend at about the same time.

Then on Wednesday February 21 at 10.15pm, a courting couple in Laindon watched as a large orange ball-shaped object hovered over the Laindon Hills.

They watched for about 15 minutes and said the object was surrounded by

a type of halo and was silent.

Finally last Saturday, the East Anglian UFO and Paranormal Research Association had reports from all over Essex, from people who had watched a saucer-shaped object the size of a dustbin lid hovering and moving through the night sky.

The object had red, yellow, blue and green lights moving around it in an anti-clockwise direction.

There were three stationary white lights in the upper part of the object and one witness thought these were windows.

It hovered at about 2,000 to 3,000 feet and was visible for more than two hours from 9.15pm to 11.20pm.

The association would be delighted to hear from anyone who has had any paranormal experiences and can be contacted on a 24 hour hot-line, telephone 0268-286079.

YELLOW ADVERTISER, Colchester, England - March 2, 1990 CR: T. Good

Calls flood in after UFO is sighted

UFO experts have been flooded with calls after the sighting of a white rotating light in the skies over Southend.

The large white ball, which was ringed by blue, red and green lights, was spotted on two nights at the weekend by witnesses from Rochford, Shoebury and Hadleigh.

UFO buffon Ron West said 18 witnesses had called the East Anglian UFO Watch to report the sightings of what he claims can only be an unidentified flying object.

Mr West said: "What makes these sightings all the more exciting is that the accounts from the witnesses are virtually the same.

"They all claim to have seen a large white ball which was rotating but making no noise whatsoever.

"Three witnesses in Rochford saw this ball, which they described as white or yellowish in colour, which hovered for 20 minutes before it shot out to sea on Saturday.

"On Sunday, 15 separate witnesses from Southend, Shoebury, Leigh, Thorpe Bay, and Rochford all reported seeing the ball.

"All the calls said they saw the ball between 9.50pm and 10.10pm.

"It hovered over in the east of the town for eight or 10 minutes before moving quickly towards Westcliff where it hovered again before flying off towards Kent at a very low altitude.

"All the witnesses say the ball was ringed with revolving lights, and it was making no noise whatsoever.

"To my knowledge there is nothing in the RAF or the US

Air Force which could do this sort of thing, and until there is proof otherwise it has to be a UFO."

One of the witnesses phoned Southend Airport at the time to ask if they had any explanation, but they said there was nothing showing up on their radar screens.

Witness Marion Morgan, of Common Hall Lane, Hadleigh, said: "I could not believe my eyes. I woke the children up and called my husband. It was just hovering in the sky.

"My husband said it must be a bright star. Then it just seemed to take off.

"The only thing I could compare its movements with would be a Harrier jet or a very fast helicopter, but I am certain it is not one of those."

SOUTHEAST EVENING ECHO, Essex, England - March 15, 1990 CR: T. Good

Encounters with the twilight zone

"IT WAS really strange," says a Yorkshireman recalling the night he thought he had entered the twilight zone.

"Although it was dark I could see it was a vague box-shape and there were big green, white, and red lights on it which stayed lit-up all the time," he continues.

"It was an object the man and his wife saw hovering in the air one night in April 1988.

"It was huge and absolutely still, and what really surprised me was that it did not make a sound. I thought it must be some sort of aircraft, but it was so still and quiet it could not possibly have been.

"We even opened the window to see if we could hear a noise, but it did not make a sound. I could not believe how big it was. Then it suddenly disappeared.

"Neither of us have ever experienced

anything like it before, and I don't particularly want to ever again, although we were not frightened — just inquisitive really. I don't want people to think we are crackpots. I know it sounds stupid, but I know what I saw and I'm glad my wife witnessed it too."

The year 1988 saw more than 400 reports of UFO sightings in Britain, many of them in Yorkshire. And in January alone there were 89 separate accounts of UFO activity.

The UFO Report 1990* records these incidents, which include several in north Yorkshire. These are just a few of the sightings reported on the evening of January 4 1988.

5.25pm: A married couple reported a

massive white sphere moving just above the clouds over Harwood.

8.15pm: A man from York reported seeing an object which to him resembled the old V1 flying bomb. It flew at a very low altitude and emitted sparks, debris and flames.

Also 8.15pm: A woman in York was outside her home when she saw a brilliant yellow and orange sphere of light move slowly across the night sky heading west.

8.45pm: Two men travelling over the moor at Blubberhouses, heading east, saw an object emitting sparks and debris at low altitude. They were convinced it was going to crash into a hillside. The

men thought it resembled a Virocket.

8.50pm: Several witnesses reported seeing two extremely large glowing white spheres that flew side by side at Collingham near Wetherby. One man said the effect was like putting a brightly lit lorry in the sky.

9.16pm: A married couple reported seeing a large white light with several smaller lights within, close to the A1 near Wetherby.

9.16pm: Two people in Harrogate were disturbed to spot a large, glowing, orange-coloured object high above the town, practically stationary. It then moved slowly towards their position, and they could make out three separate points of orange and yellow co-

THERE'S something happening up there and we don't know what it is. That's the message of The UFO Report, a handbook just published for enthusiasts of UFOs - unidentified flying objects. The handbook calls on the Government to conduct more research into the phenom-



non. TONY HARCUP reports.

loured lights within the main body, almost in cluster formation.

Similar reports continued throughout January and into February 1988. On the evening of Wednesday, February 3, at around 6.30pm, an incident took place on the A59 Harrogate to Skipton road. A coachload of 40 school pupils and staff were shocked to witness an oval-shaped ball of yellow

light travel alongside their vehicle.

After descending to their level very suddenly, the object "paced" the vehicle for a few seconds, moved for a while slightly ahead of it, then sped off at an estimated speed of 120 miles per hour towards Blubberhouses. Just 20 seconds later, a similar object came from the rear of the coach and carried out al-

most the same manoeuvre.

Sightings have continued throughout 1989, although not so frequently, and the Government and Ministry of Defence stand accused by the contributors to the UFO Report of, at best, ignoring UFOs or, at worst, deliberately concealing information from the public.

Commenting on these sightings, Graham and Mark Birdsell of the Yorkshire UFO Society conclude: "The reports we have gleaned throughout the year, and last decade, tell us that we are dealing with a very real phenomenon that demands scientific study and greater interest shown by politicians, who must begin to appreciate that not everyone who claims to have seen a UFO is always mistaken."

© The UFO Report 1990, edited by Timothy Good, Sidgwick and Jackson, £7.99.

HARROGATE ADVERTISER, Yorks., England - Feb. 2, 1990 CR: T. Good

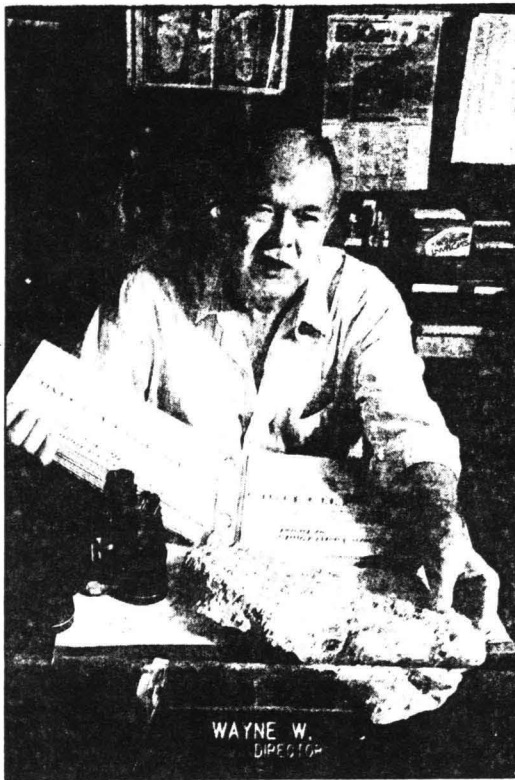


FORTEANA NEWS

KAPA VS. KING: BIGFOOT STALKERS DO BATTLE



Art Kapa: "The only way Mr. Wayne King will ever see a Bigfoot is if it comes to his door and asks for directions back to the woods."



Wayne King: If he finds Bigfoot, he vows to "call up Art Kapa and tell him ... to look at the body ... (and) start looking for UFOs."

Detroit News photos by Harold Robinson

"The only way Mr. Wayne King will ever see a Bigfoot is if it comes to his door and asks for directions back to the woods."

King, a General Motors Corp. press operator, doesn't believe there has been legitimate evidence of a Bigfoot in Michigan since he saw one in 1983, while he was driving to work. He doesn't go out to a site until people he knows have investigated it and say it appears to be legitimate. Other people told him the Hillsdale County tracks were a hoax.

He said he has learned secrets about finding Bigfoots from Salish Indians who claim to communicate with them.

"I'M INTELLIGENT enough to know if I know the animal is there, it knows I'm there," he said.

King has an unlisted telephone number because he said everybody important in the Bigfoot world already knows how to reach him, and Kapa wants as many people as possible to know his hotline number, (517) 843-6302.

Kapa never has seen a Bigfoot, and King said he saw two in 1978 in Kingston, and the one in 1983 south of Caro.

Kapa has more plaster casts of tracks, but King has a lump of feces encased in glass. He found it in 1977. John Stuht, a wildlife research biologist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, examined it and wrote back, "I would guess the material you found was feces from a horse."

KING, WHO HAS the letter framed on his wall, said Stuht's letter helps to prove the feces is from a Bigfoot.

"What else could he say?" he said.

The arguments go back and forth, and they both know it won't end until somebody proves Bigfoots exist and what kind of animals they are.

They both know what they'll do when that happens.

"I'm going to go over to Mr. Wayne King's house and drop the pictures in front of him and say, 'What do you have to say now, sir?'" Kapa said. "It's going to be worth all those hours in the bush just to do that."

"I'll call up Art Kapa and tell him to come over and look at the body," King said. "I'll tell him he might as well start looking for UFOs or something like that now. It'll be great."

Ex-chums vow to out-sleuth each other

TUSCOLA COUNTY

By Greg Lopez
Detroit News Staff Writer



ack when Art Kapa and Wayne King were friends, they used to go into the woods to wait all night for Bigfoot.

King would shout something like "Uga-booga-booga," which he learned from Salish Indians who claim to communicate with Bigfoot, and Kapa would tell him if it had any sense, it would run the other way. King would open a can of sardines and throw it to bait Bigfoot, and Kapa would say he might as well throw crackers, too. They would sit on lawn chairs and wait, but every time they ended up in arguments about Bigfoot that were so loud they would have scared it away.

"Unlike Mr. Wayne King, I look at just the facts," said Kapa, director of the Bigfoot Investigation Center based, in his home outside Mayville.

"I'M NOT going to say anything personal about Art Kapa," said King, director of the Michigan/Canadian Bigfoot Information Center, based in his home in Caro.

"I say, if a man wants to believe things nobody else in their right mind would believe, let him. All I want is facts."

What is a fact is that if they both are right — there are two completely different Bigfoots.

Kapa and King are Michigan's two nationally known Bigfoot investigators, and they live nine miles from each other in Tuscola County in Michigan's Thumb.

Both say they have searched for Bigfoots for more than 20 years and that the other hasn't done it nearly that long.

THEY HAVEN'T worked together in almost 10 years.

King, 53, is better known and said Kapa is jealous of the publicity he has received.

Kapa, 57, said he isn't jealous and would be interviewed only if he was quoted calling King a "blithering idiot."

King believes Bigfoots are an American ape, and Kapa thinks they probably have human characteristics. King said he will shoot to kill it if he sees it, and a group in Dallas has offered him millions for its body. Kapa said he will only photograph and videotape it, and if King shoots it, he should be charged with premeditated murder.

OTHER BIGFOOT experts don't

agree on whether either King or Kapa is right.

"That's to be expected because most of them don't know what they're talking about, either," Washington State University anthropology Associate Professor Grover Krantz said. "That's because they're all competing to be the first person to prove this creature exists. There is no second place."

Kapa, who has a farm and is retired from the construction business, keeps his car packed with jugs of water, plaster of Paris and cameras in case he gets a call on his Bigfoot hotline. He gets three or four calls a month. Two weeks a month, he wears camouflage and walks through forests to look for signs of Bigfoot.

The last time he saw signs he believed was more than a year ago in Hillsdale County.

"**THE THING TO** do is go out after it, find out what its patterns are," he said. "Just because it doesn't wear clothes, smoke cigarettes and drink beer doesn't mean it isn't human, you know. Hell, I've met people who don't do any of those things."

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Sept. 28, 1989

History of Ogopogo began in Indian tales

In his Sept. 15 letter, Alfred Watts contended that it was around 1920 that "the fruits of the vine produced the mythical denizen of Okanagan Lake [Ogopogo] in someone's fevered imagination."

Historian Margaret Ormsby records that it was in 1868 that Susan Louisa Allison (née Moir) first heard Indian tales about "the Monster of Okanagan Lake" while on her honeymoon trip from Hope to Princeton. In her memoirs, Mrs. Allison says Similkameen Indians talked "of the creature now called the 'Ogopogo.' The Indians did not say 'Ogopogo.' They looked on it as a superhuman entity and seemed to fear it, though none ... had seen it ..."

In 1873, en route from Allison ranch holdings in the Similkameen to those in the Okanagan, she heard the Indians point out "where it lived on an island in Okanagan Lake." Furthermore, one of the Indians told how he had lost a team of horses to the monster.

Dr. Ormsby's footnote on the naming of Ogopogo is worth reproducing here: The legendary monster of Okanagan Lake obtained the name of "Ogopogo" on the occasion of a luncheon in Vernon on 23 August 1926 when the members of the Vancouver Board of Trade were guests of the Vernon Board of Trade and the Vernon Rotary Club. As on many other occasions, the Kalamalka Players, a group of talented amateurs at Vernon, provided entertainment. The highlight was the singing of a parody of a song written by Davy Burnaby of the English troupe of entertainers,

the "Co-optimists." H.F. Beattie's parody, sung by W.H. Brimblecombe, contained the words:

I'm looking for the Ogopogo
The bunny-hugging Ogopogo
His mother was a mutton, his father was a whale,
I'm going to put a little bit of salt on his tail.

JACQUELINE GRESKO
History Department
Douglas College

700 Royal
New Westminster

USA TODAY, Arlington, VA - March 22, 1990

Group looking for yeti — and first conquest of peak

The search for the yeti — the abominable snowman! How adventurous, how romantic, how Hollywood. But Jim Wickwire, co-leader of a four-man expedition that leaves Monday for the Himalayas, wants to make his group's mission perfectly clear: "We're really going to climb a mountain. It's just kind of a bonus to have this mystery angle added in."

Wickwire, 49, and co-leader John Roskelley, 41, are Washington state mountaineers ranked among the world's best Himalayan climbers. Both have climbed Everest and K-2. Now, they're after an unclimbed Tibetan peak: 23,564-foot Menlungtse in the Everest range and in the Menlung Valley, where yetis are said to roam.

Photos from a 1951 expedition show what's purported to be yeti footprints. British mountaineer Chris Bonington led a group into the same area two years ago and filmed a documentary about the search for the famed snowman.

Evidence is inconclusive.

So Wickwire and Roskelley will watch carefully for yeti signs, especially at night. "If you're interested in seeing one of these things, maybe you have to stay up late at night," Wickwire said. But mostly they'll be concerned about climbing Menlungtse.

The expedition will move Alpine style, attempting to move up the mountain in one quick push. No oxygen, no fixed ropes. "If conditions aren't right," Wickwire said, "you back off." The four men intend to be in base camp by April 10 and in position for a push to the summit May 1.

A Steady Observer For Trembling Moodus

By ANDI RIERDEN

IN Moodus, they call her the Earthquake Lady. Each time the ground moves, the windows of Cathy Wilson's house rattle and the stereo speakers that hang on the wall shake. At times, loud thumps send ripples through her water bed, waking her at all hours of the night. And sometimes, rumbling jackhammer-like noises from below send her 20 cats scattering in every direction.

Geophysicists call them microquakes, but these small tremors that rumble through Mrs. Wilson's 120-year-old Colonial house on the Salmon River, about 10 miles southeast of Middletown, are what local residents have known for centuries as the "Moodus noises."

The swarms of tremors at Moodus, which recur periodically and whose cause is unknown, are bizarre for the special property of the noises. Often compared to distant thunder or cannon fire, the noises have long occurred there. While scientists have offered various theories as to what causes the quakes, no one is sure why they are so noisy and why they occur in that particular place and depth: about a mile deep in an area a few hundred yards wide.

Since 1981, Mrs. Wilson has faithfully recorded every serious thunder and pop in a journal she shares with the Weston Observatory of Boston College in Weston, Mass., which monitors all earthquake activity in New England and has been seeking clues to

The job of one resident is to keep track of the persistent quakes.

the Moodus noises. And because her farmhouse is just 1,500 feet away from what is thought to be the epicenter of the Moodus earthquakes, scientists there take what Mrs. Wilson records seriously.

Over the years, the observatory has placed various seismic instruments that measure the magnitude of the earthquakes on the Wilsons' property. Though Mrs. Wilson receives no money for this, she has received considerable fame as the village's guide to the celebrated movements.

"Every time there's a fairly good boom around here, people in town and all the experts start phoning, wanting to know if it was or if it wasn't an earthquake," said Mrs. Wilson, sitting in the tidy cedar-paneled farmhouse that she shares with her husband, Barry, and their four children.

For centuries, the Moodus noises have been the subject of folklore. Records of the noises go back to the Indians, who thought the noises emanated from evil spirits. Puritans, on the other hand, conjectured that it was God's way of punishing them.



The New York Times/Rollin A. Riggs

Cathy Wilson, known as the Earthquake Lady, outside her home, 1,500 feet away from what is thought to be the epicenter of the Moodus earthquakes.

The name Moodus derives from Mache-moodus, a Wangunk Indian name meaning "place of noises." The Wangunk created a religion around the noises, believing that the area was the dwelling place of Hobbamock, a vengeful god angered that the Europeans had come to Connecticut. Colonial settlers attributed the noises to fights between the black magic witches of Haddam and the white magic witches of Moodus.

The fight supposedly took place under Mount Tom in a cavern lighted by a great carbuncle. When the devil tired of the fights, he would blow the witches out of the cavern, extinguishing the carbuncle's light and producing "deafening peals of thunder."

Other legends tell of an old wizard named Dr. Steel who, for a time, cured the region of the noises by removing the carbuncle from the earth. But after the doctor's ship to England was lost at sea, rumors circulated that an evil spirit had murdered him for removing the carbuncle. "Actually, I think he probably just took money given to him for removing the carbuncle and ran," Mrs. Wilson said.

She and her husband had never heard of the Moodus noises when they bought their 30-acre farm in 1969. Over the years, the family became accustomed to the sporadic noises coming from the back area of their house. "It sounded like thunder," Mrs. Wilson said, "only it just didn't make sense."

In 1979, the Wilsons built an addition to their house in which Mrs. Wilson opened a crafts store. At that point she began to meet more local residents who told her of the famed noises. "That's when we started to realize that what we were hearing could be the Moodus noises," she said. "Though nobody knew for sure if they were earthquakes."

Known for its vacation resorts and golf courses, the quiet village within East Haddam has experienced thousands of earthquakes. Experts speculate that the biggest occurred in 1761, when a quake toppled chimneys and was felt in New York and Boston.

In the early 1980's, the Wilsons contacted Dr. John E. Ebel, the director of the Weston Observatory, who, along with a team of geophysicists from Columbia University in New York, visited the Wilson farm and installed a seismograph 50 feet from their back door.

In 1982 alone, Moodus experienced hundreds of earthquakes, though many of them were too tiny to be felt. Mrs. Wilson still refers to the largest, which registered 2.9 on the Richter scale, as "the big one."

Another swarm of quakes hit Moodus in 1987 and 1988. The most prominent of that group hit a magnitude of 2.3, terrifying Mrs. Wilson, who had not heard any tremors for more than a year. "We had been having trouble with our furnace, and I first thought the thing had blown up," she recalled. "It was like this huge crash under my feet, followed by moderate quakes. That really shook me up."

To record the microquakes, the observatory has set up six seismograph stations around the Moodus area. In 1987, Dr. Ebel installed additional monitoring equipment behind a wood stove in the Wilsons' basement, to measure quakes above 4.5. Despite the sophisticated equipment and several teams of geologists who have drilled in the area, the Moodus earthquake still remains somewhat of a mystery.

"The original plan for the Moodus monitoring was to go in there for a couple of years, get the answers, and pull out the stations and install them in some other place of interest," Dr. Ebel said. "So far, we've only been able to get a nebulous view of the

fault structure and which way it trends."

He added that it was uncertain whether Moodus would ever experience an earthquake similar to the one in 1791. Some experts state that the Moodus microquakes are slowly releasing enough pressure to offset a larger one. Another possibility, Dr. Ebel said, is that they are part of a partially active larger structure that may at some point activate completely, setting off an earthquake of notable size.

"All we can do is look at the past and note that there was a large earthquake 200 years ago," Dr. Ebel said. "If it occurred once, it can probably occur again, but there's no indication that it's imminent. On the other hand, it still could happen tomorrow."

Mrs. Wilson, who stresses that she is not an expert, keeps her wit about such possibilities. She prides herself on a well-honed ability to distinguish between thunder and earthquake sounds and records only noises "that happen if there are no other reasons for them, like storm conditions, construction blasting or a plane flying overhead."

An Echo of the Supernatural

But as scientific as she tries to make them, Mrs. Wilson's journals still echo of supernatural forces:

¶June 17, 1982: Rumble hard enough to make water bed ripple and wake me. Large crack of an explosion. Sound trembled all house.

¶May 10, 1983: Windows rattled and neighbor called to say her house shook too.

¶May 20, 1982: Loud bang felt like something fell on roof.

¶June 19, 1984: Long, hard rumble felt through whole house. Shook speakers on wall.

Scholars seek her advice and state legislators write her letters thanking her for volunteering her services to the study of the Moodus microquakes. Recently a grade-school pupil writing a paper on the Moodus noises called her from New London.

Her children, who have grown up with the famous quakes, cannot figure out what all the fuss is about, said Mrs. Wilson, who in addition to monitoring earthquakes is an accomplished woodcarver and painter. "If anything," she said, "I'm just thankful to God that so far they've been little guys."

Bigfoot Tracks Not Very Difficult To Fake, Researcher Says

SEATTLE — A Washington State University anthropologist has found that it's relatively easy to fake one of the more impressive bits of evidence in so-called footprints of the Sasquatch.

The Sasquatch, or Bigfoot, is a legendary human-like creature that has been reported in mountains of the Northwest for generations.

Some of the better preserved footprints have shown dermal ridges, the tiny whorls that appear in the skin on the bottoms of toes and feet, similar to fingerprints. The feature occurs in humans and apes but not other animals.

In fact, some apparently fresh footprints — 17 inches long and 6 inches wide — that John Bodley found in the Blue Mountains of Southeast Washington in 1987, showed dermal ridges clearly. But some other things about the prints made him suspect they were fake.

Back home in Pullman, Bodley decided to see if he could fake dermal ridges. He began by fashioning a clay mold of an oversized foot. Then he rolled his bare big toe in the soft clay to leave impressions of dermal ridges. He did the same with his heel. Then he pressed his forehead into the center of the clay footprint.

Bodley's son, Brett, 16, spread glue on the skin of his fingers and feet, peeled it off and then pressed the dried glue into the clay to leave still more impressions of skin patterns.

Bodley poured plaster of Paris into the mold and let it harden into a cast of a Sasquatch foot. Then he pressed the cast into soft ground. The dermal ridges were clearly visible in the "footprint." And they were still visible in a plaster cast he made of the print.

Bodley wasn't trying to fool anyone, and his fake print didn't. He showed the cast to Grover Krantz, a WSU anthropologist who has investigated reported Sasquatch sightings. Krantz pointed out that the crudely shaped toes were a giveaway. And at Bodley's request, Krantz

showed the fake footprint cast with dermal ridges to six fingerprint expert.

"I showed them two casts and told them one was a fabrication and the other was of unknown origin," Krantz said. "Each one picked the fake immediately. They said the dermal ridges were not oriented correctly on the foot."

The experiment did now shake Krantz's conviction that Sasquatches do exist, even though no bones of the legendary animal ever have been found.

"It would be extremely difficult to fake dermal ridges well enough to fool the experts," Krantz said. "It would take someone well versed in the arrangement of ridges on the feet, as well as skillful in the technique Bodley used."

Krantz cited one supposed Sasquatch print seven inches wide with dermal ridges running the entire width. "No human foot is that wide," he said, "and there was no patching of the ridges. It would have been impossible to fake."

Bodley says he is "not a disbeliever" in the in the Sasquatch, given the persistence of the legend in history.

"But it's possible hoaxers are a lot more sophisticated than I thought, and we're going to have to be more careful in examining footprints," he said.

The 1987 footprints Bodley found didn't appear more than 30 minutes old. Although the prints were spread out over a quarter mile of trail, only one sequence of left-right prints was found. Bodley was puzzled why there were so few tracks on so much available soft soil. Still, he felt he needed to account for the presence of the dermal ridges.

"Now I think it's even more likely they were fake," he said. ■

Should you meet Sasquatch, run for the nearest telephone

DON'T SHOOT BIGFOOT! begged the headline of a recent edition of *The Newcomerstown News*.

The plea was an echo of the concern voiced, on the eve of deer season, by Don Keating, one of that Tuscarawas County village's more intriguing characters.

Keating is the 27-year-old founder and president of the Eastern Ohio Bigfoot Study Group and self-published author of the definitive work, *The Eastern Ohio Sasquatch*.

Once a month, Keating assembles true believers in a meeting room at Newcomerstown's Duke's Inn motel. The group, usually two dozen or so, exchanges information on sightings, ponders casts taken from supposed footprints, examines blurred and hazy snapshots. Some say the images are **Bigfoot**; others, an example of what **emulsion** and imagination can do when an errant, hairy thumb strays into a viewfinder.

I have sat in Keating's living room



**Mike Harden
IN ESSENCE**

and pored over his photographic evidence. The pictures represent a determined man's obsession to prove that there really is something out there crashing about in the woods. Thus, in the hours before hundreds of deer hunters were loosed upon the wooded areas around Newcomerstown — where Keating claims there have been 36 Bigfoot sightings this year to date — he was understandably concerned.

"There's always a danger they're going to see something they think is a bear and shoot," he said. "My main concern is that some nut doesn't go out in the woods saying, 'I'm going to get Bigfoot!'"

Now that deer gun season is finished, one can only presume that the object of Keating's concern dodged the bullets.

Keating knows he is out there somewhere. He goes searching for him three, sometimes four times a weekend, armed with nothing more dangerous than a Sears camcorder.

Only a week before deer gun season, Keating and a friend experienced sighting a shadowy figure lurking an estimated 300 yards from them in a field. Flush with his find, he permitted *The News* to run his telephone number so that deer hunters could report their sightings. He received but one call, and that one related to a month-old sighting by an individual unwilling to come forward and identify himself.

The deer hunters let Keating down. "There were hundreds of people in the woods out there last week," he said, "and somebody out there somewhere had to have seen something."

But what should they have been looking for? What mental picture of Sasquatch should the bowhunters (still hunting) and the black powder gang (who have yet to begin) take into the woods with them?

There is some disagreement on Sasquatch's precise appearance. Some say he's brown, others black. Six toes, five, four? It is unclear. How tall? Are there no national authorities on the creature?

Keating allowed that a couple of self-appointed authorities existed, cautioning, however, and without intended irony, "In Bigfoot circles, they're not known as credible."

Some consensus exists that the creature (1) smells bad, (2) likes women and (3) scares away game as it lumbers through the woods. On the last day of

deer gun season that could be just about ... nah, better not. I already have enough deer hunters who would love to see my hide drift within range of their cross hairs.

"If the creature was out there," Keating said, "and I know it is, they had to run into it."

Did he not, after all, in May of this year examine a set of 17½-inch footprints, 9 inches wide at the ball of the foot? Were they not made by a creature taking 4-foot strides up the 45-degree slope of a hillside?

Maybe. Maybe not.

In the weeks ahead, the muzzleloaders and bowhunters will take to the woods. Should they see anything strange out there knocking around the underbrush, Keating's number is 1-614-498-7757.

Remember, he cautioned, the creature is not harmful, rather "shy, elusive, passive." Hence, once again, his counsel: "Don't shoot at it."

BOOKS

Seen Serpents

Two books explore Lake Champlain's mystery creatures

By Robert Barrow

Champ: Beyond the Legend. By Joseph W. Zarzynski. M-Z Information, 240 pages, \$12.95.

Monster Wrecks of Loch Ness and Lake Champlain. By Joseph W. Zarzynski. M-Z Information, 111 pages, \$8.95.

Although it's hard to imagine Onondaga Lake could possibly yield anything but chemically enriched sludge, this lake has hosted a few water-bound curiosities over the years. Around the turn of the century, two squids were pulled out and identified—hardly one's idea of an inland lake inhabitant. Other news accounts during that era reported the shooting of a seal on Onondaga Lake, and a "sargassum fish" allegedly retrieved from the same water merited a public exhibition in Syracuse.

Even more unlikely, however, are the sightings of Loch Ness-type sea serpents in nearby Lake Champlain. Two books by author Joseph Zarzynski, a cryptozoologist, teacher and scuba diver who resides near Saratoga Springs, examine the history behind the lake's legendary creatures.

Champ: Beyond the Legend expands upon Zarzynski's search for evidence of Lake Champlain's "Champ," a name collectively denoting a colony of Loch Ness-like animals, some of which are believed to reach 25 feet in length. Like many lakes, Champlain boasts an impressive heritage of monster sightings, and this lavishly illustrated volume supports the longevity of Champ as both legend and species with an 1880 woodcut picture of "The Lake Champlain Sea Serpent." Of particular interest is the marked similarity between a photo taken of the Loch Ness monster to a more recent one of Champ.

Zarzynski provocatively relates the lake's creature history, through the use of high-tech underwater photography, side-scan sonar and a submersible robot that boldly and damply goes where no man has gone before. Because Lake Champlain's 100-plus miles incorporate New York, Vermont and Quebec, the task is gargantuan.

Evidence lending credence to the existence of Champlain's mystery critters is well-represented here, substantiated a step further by some landmark legislation enacted by the New York State Assembly and Vermont that protects such enigmatic aquatic dwellers from human injury. As an avowed environmentalist, author Zarzynski applauds the states' protective laws, even if no one's exactly sure what's being saved from extinction.

In *Monster Wrecks of Loch Ness and Lake Champlain*, Zarzynski ventures further to dredge up numerous peculiarities of both Scotland's and the United States' freshwater equivalents of Davy Jones' locker. Featured water stars Champ and "Nessie" are discussed, of course, and so are ancient shipwrecks and lost aircraft.

Evidence lending credence to the existence of Champlain's mystery critters is well-represented.

Of paramount interest is a chapter describing the accidental discovery and subsequent retrieval of a British Wellington bomber during a hunt for Scotland's Loch Ness creature. Apparently ditched in the loch during World War II, the find proved especially breathtaking, because of the 11,461 Wellingtons manufactured during the mid-Thirties, only two survive intact today.

Zarzynski also touches upon an outrageously humorous moment in recent cinema history. A \$25,000 full-size prop of the Loch Ness monster, constructed for the 1969 production *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, promptly took on water and sank in the loch before director Billy Wilder (*Sunset Boulevard*, *The Apartment*) had a chance to say "Action!"

The hulking creation with a gargyle-like head and two appendages now rests comfortably at the depths of Loch Ness, perhaps providing as much of a puzzle to the real "Nessie" as he, she or it presents to us.

For more information about these books, write to M-Z Information, P.O. Box 2129, Wilton 12866.

GLOBE AND MAIL, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Dec. 19, 1989

Ice chunk crashes through roof

Canadian Press

PORT DALHOUSIE, Ont.

A football-sized chunk of ice that crashed through the roof of a Royal Canadian Legion hall on Sunday caused thousands of dollars in damage.

The three-kilogram ice lump crashed through the ceiling of the men's washroom leaving a shocked patron gaping at the 50-centimetre hole in the roof. The floor was strewn with pieces of wood, plaster and insulation.

"We thought there was an explosion," said Ron Galway, administrator of Branch 350 of the Royal Canadian Legion, near St. Catharines, Ont.

rines, Ont.

Police were investigating the incident, but the source of the projectile was a mystery.

Mr. Galway thinks the ice — smooth and flat on one side — fell off a passing airplane.

"It had to come off an airplane to come down with that much force," said Mr. Galway, who estimated damage at more than \$5,000.

Branch president Ken Brisbois said the flying ice chunk landed close to the washroom sink. "If somebody had been washing their hands it would have killed them."

CR: G. Duplantier

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada Feb. 28, 1990 CR: G. Conway

Machine's inventor a mystery

The creator of the "levitation machine" that led the provincial environment ministry to create a new PCB storage site in Surrey is an elusive inventor.

"I don't think any official has ever met the person or spoken to him," says Gordon Thompson, Environment Canada's Lower Mainland regional enforcement coordinator.

Eleven barrels of toxic PCBs now stored at the Surrey site came from an east Vancouver lab discovered by a city fire warden during a routine inspection. His report triggered a visit to the East 13th Avenue site in

March by city, federal and provincial environment department officials.

"It was like walking into Back to the Future," Vancouver's industrial waste control supervisor said of the room full of high-voltage electrical equipment, some of which was laden with polychlorinated biphenyls.

"There were all these large glass balls with electrical coils coming out of the top, as well as more sophisticated equipment."

Thompson said investigators were later told the missing tenant had invented a "levitation machine" — a

gizmo that defied the law of gravity.

Rick Hawes, a B.C. environmental safety officer who investigated the lab, said the landlord and neighbors said the lab had been operating, and that there had once been an explosion.

That meant the room was likely contaminated with PCBs, and Hawes said there was also a risk that the electrical equipment could catch fire. "We felt it simply had to be removed and cleaned up."

Authorities had telephone calls from people who claimed the

"inventor" was being held against his will in Eastern Europe; they heard claims that a rival company was trying to steal the invention. But they never saw the man who set up the lab.

Where is he now? "That's the \$64,000 question," Roberts says.

Investigators followed a paper trail that led to an international freight company and discovered an attempt to ship some of the PCB-laden equipment to West Germany. Some equipment was already at a Vancouver dock, and Environment Canada ordered a halt to the shipment.

Ellsworth man puts Sasquatch in his art

by Nan Lincoln

ELLSWORTH — A young woman has emerged from her neat, little, white clapboard house to hang her wash out on the line to dry. In a nearby pasture a flock of plump black and white sheep graze



A detail from Jay Adams' most recent work, *Salt Farm*. More of the artist's paintings and woodwork can be seen, by appointment, at the Southwest Harbor Antiques Gallery or by contacting Joan Adams at the Davis Agency in Southwest Harbor.

peacefully while a boy rides by on his bicycle. Other residents of this salt-farm village also go about their daily business. Above, sea gulls wheel in a bright blue sky dotted with fluffy white clouds.

Bordering this tranquil scene is a stand of spiky evergreens, and from the depths of their dark foliage two red eyes, glowing like embers, are watching.

The setting for a new Stephen King novel? No — it is a newly completed painting by Ellsworth artist Jay Adams.

Actually, Adams himself is rather hes-

humorous depictions of Maine life are set down in a detailed, naive style that is charmingly unique.

Although most of his scenes come from his imagination, they are largely rearrangements or combinations of places he has been and everyday events he has observed. Looking at them, the viewer is almost certain the settings are familiar, but can't quite place them.

What about those red, watching eyes? Well, they are part of Adams' memory too, a memory of several close encounters that are so vivid the artist feels compelled to include a record of them somewhere in each of his paintings. They are the eyes of the Sasquatch, also known as the yeti, the abominable snowman and bigfoot.

Adams confesses to being rather obsessed by the Sasquatch, a creature he claims to have seen several times in his travels, both in the hills of his native New Jersey, near his home in Ellsworth and in Acadia National Park. At one time in his life, the artist felt compelled to try to prove the existence of these elusive, ape-like beings to skeptics, but he no longer feels that urgency. The book he has written and hopes one day to publish about his strange encounters, he says was primarily a way for him to get the whole thing out of his system.

"I'm tired of talking about it. I know they are out there, and if others choose not to believe it, it's their problem not mine," he says.

He also says there is a reason for their presence in isolated spots all over the world, but he mysteriously demurs when asked to explain that purpose.

Although Adams is serious about his unusual beliefs, his sense of humor keeps him from taking himself or life in general too seriously. In fact, he steers away from painting subjects that are overly depressing, or carry heavy messages. Perhaps his strongest social com-

mentary is made in his painting *The Clones*. The work depicts women workers emerging from the Addison sardine packing plant in an orderly line, dressed in identical aprons, caps and flowered dresses. Still it is the humor of the situation, rather than the bleakness, that comes across most strongly in this, as in most of his work.

The artist does not use the standard tools of his trade either. Eschewing canvas, he chooses to paint his scenes on panels of wood or strips of tin. Although some of his works, like his 4th of July in Bar Harbor, are as large as 8 feet long, the usual size is 4 feet by 13 inches. He also prefers to use house paint, rather than artist's acrylics, which he says is cheaper and gives him the flat, smooth texture he likes. In the corner of his living room, which serves as his studio, are dozens of Dunkin Donut coffee cups — his favorite hangout — which he recycles for mixing his colors.

When Adams is not painting, or hanging out in Dunkin Donuts, he is working on the house he and his wife, Joan, bought eight years ago. Perched on the banks of the Union River, the little cape could be a setting in one of his paintings. The delicately scrolled decorative moldings that grace the eaves and window boxes, the cabinetwork in the finished kitchen and bathroom, reveal that the artist is skilled with wood as well as paint. In fact, making antique-style decoys and bird carvings is another of Adams' creative sidelines.

The artist's home is definitely charming. But if he were, in fact, to use it in one of his paintings, it's pretty certain that the perspective would not be that of its residents. Like all of the scenes in Adams' paintings, his own home and his own activities would be seen from a distance, through the glowing red eyes of a reclusive creature watching from its hiding place in the forest. It would be viewed and recorded from the curious, primitive perspective of the Sasquatch.

TIMES-COLONIST, Victoria, B.C., Canada - March 3, 1990 CR: G. Conway

'Monster' observed in Gorge

By Judith Lavoie
Times-Colonist staff

Disbelievers can snicker all they want but there really is a monster at the foot of the garden, says Alison Griffiths of Selkirk Avenue.

But the monster seems harmless and, as he lives in the waters of the Gorge, he must be named Gorgeous, said Griffiths.

"We have had four sightings of what appears to be a sea monster in the Gorge," said Griffiths, vice-president of the Gorge Waterway Society.

Gorgeous was spotted three times by Griffiths and the fourth sighting was by her seven-year-old daughter.

There is a logical explanation why the only reported sightings have come

from the Griffiths family, she said.

Not only is Griffiths one of the few people to swim regularly in the Gorge, her house is right on the water and the family has binoculars trained on the water.

Also, Griffiths, a writer, works at home and so is in an ideal position to watch for Gorgeous.

"It seems to be more on sunny days and around noon that he appears," she said.

"I want everyone who lives or boats or walks along the Gorge to watch out for him and record the sightings. Most of the glimpses have been fleeting and we would love pictures and the details such as head-shape and size so we can

deliver them to the experts," she said.

It is very possible that other people have seen Gorgeous and have not believed their eyes or have not reported it, she said.

Griffiths's first sighting was in August and the most recent this week.

"The first time was when I was swimming. I saw a very large dark shape which drifted underneath me and drifted off again. It was far too large and round to be a seal," she said.

"He's about one-and-a-half times the size of a normal seal and he's almost round. He appears to have a huge belly. I think he swims on his back with his great belly sticking up," Griffiths said.

"He's medium gray in color with purple blotches. He seems like a giant puff-fish with a small neck and bobby head. I couldn't tell whether he had a tail or not — he hasn't deigned to show us that part of his anatomy."

Seals, otters, mink and all sorts of bird and animal life live in or by the Gorge and, with a plentiful food supply and warm water, it seems possible that some kind of creature could have got trapped in the Gorge years ago and simply remained, she said.

Stan Orchard, a research associate in herpetology (the study of amphibians and reptiles) at the Royal British Columbia Museum, said after speaking to Griffiths that it is difficult to hazard a guess whether Gorgeous is an exceptionally fat harbor seal or something completely different.

"I think the best possibility is that it's a species which has been lured in by the herring, which are running at the moment, so a mammal is most likely," Orchard said.

But there is always a remote possibility that it is something exotic such as a sea turtle — such as has been seen in the Georgia Strait, he said.

Griffiths described the creature's head as blunt and bulgy.

"Sea turtles have a lot of fat and their heads are blunt and blubbery," Orchard said.



■ GRIFFITHS: he's Gorgeous

Biologists are always hoping that such sightings are going to turn up something new, said Orchard, who was on the panel which reviewed the video taken last year of the legendary Okanagan Lake monster, Ogopogo.

Experts believe the video proved categorically that Ogopogo is not a monster.

It was disappointing that Ogopogo turned out to be a beaver, he said.

Meanwhile, Griffiths said the possibility of sharing the Gorge with a monster will not put her off swimming.



Jay Adams and his dog Bonsey do not seem terribly concerned over Sasquatch sightings near their Ellsworth home, though Adams claims that dogs are a favorite item in the mysterious creature's diet.

NAN LINCOLN

Could it have been voodoo vandalism?

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Police who inspected a house for a possible burglary this week say they saw objects fly around inexplicably. They had a priest bless the house but filed no official report on the strange occurrences.

Patrolman Stan Anderson and Sgt. William Clark were called to the home after Virginia John returned from work Sunday to find everything in disarray.

"Dishes were smashed, windows were broken, a lamp exploded and eggs lined up in the refrigerator all had exploded," Anderson said. Residents of the house couldn't have thrown the things, he said.

Clark said he saw a large radio leap from a desk and slide under a bed.

"The house was completely destroyed," Anderson said. "She said objects had been moving around all day and strange things had been happening."

The police officers called the police department chaplain, the Rev. Wilbert A. Cunningham, and a Catholic priest who asked that his name not be made public. The priest blessed the home.

Police said a 14-year-old relative from Puerto Rico who had been living at the home was believed to have been involved in devil worship. He had been sent back to Puerto Rico, said police.

Monster TV show a hit

KELOWNA, B.C. (CP) — A man who claims he videotaped a serpent-like monster in Okanagan Lake last year says he was pleased with a television report shown Wednesday night.

Ken Chaplin's footage was part of an *Unsolved Mysteries* segment about the legendary lake monster Ogopogo.

Chaplin said the U.S. television program did an excellent job of balancing evidence indicating Ogopogo exists with opinions it is a hoax.

An expert who watched Chaplin's tape compared it to a still photo of a beaver.